

Student Name

English 12

Ms. Tucker

10 November 2020

Outline - Analytical Essay for *Native Son*

1. Introduction

- a. Thesis statement: Richard Wright argues in *Native Son* that whites employed the system of Jim Crow to force African Americans, like Bigger Thomas, into socio-economic positions of inferiority. This inferiority thus provides an underlying condition of fear that simmers throughout the lives of blacks—effects of which continue generation to generation.

2. Body 1 - Fear in *Native Son* - Book 1

- a. How the story begins with some of Bigger's most basic fears
 - i. **Evidence 1:** Doesn't want to rob a white man (25)
 - 1. **Socio-economic factor 2** in this section - fear helps drive a sense that there are two parts of the town - where the whites can be and where the blacks can be: "I reckon we the only things in this city that can't go where we want to go and do what we want to do" (21).
 - 2. **Connections to today:** Redlining in real estate and how it continues to impact blacks today:

- a. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/redlining-what-is-history-mike-bloomberg-comments/>
- b. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2018/03/28/redlining-was-banned-50-years-ago-its-still-hurting-minorities-today/>

ii. **Evidence 2:** Mary's murder - fear drives in-the-moment decision-making as he fears what could happen to him if Mrs. Dalton discovers him in Mary's room (84-86)... "The reality of the room fell from him; the vast city of white people that sprawled outside took its place. She was dead and he had killed her. He was murderer, a Negro murderer, a black murderer. He had killed a white woman" (87).

1. **Socio-economic factors:** Being poor and having no career possibilities in front of him, he knows that this job is it, and is his family's way to better living conditions.
2. Connections to today: The biased prison system. History of the 13th amendment and imprisoning blacks to continue to use them as slave labor (loophole in 13th amendment) and segregation up through the 1960s created conditions for generational poverty:
 - a. Generational poverty definition:
 - b. About prisons and the 13th amendment:

3. **Body 2 - Fear - Book 2**

4. **Body 3 - Fear - Book 3**