

Small Group Discussion: “The Negro Artist and The Racial Mountain”

Group Members _____

Recorder _____

Directions: For this activity, discuss each question for a few minutes. After everyone contributes, the designated recorder needs to summarize the group’s responses on a separate sheet of paper. Staple this paper to your notes and turn in at the end of class.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you agree with Hughes’s claim that “I want to be a poet- not a Negro poet” equates to “I would like to be white?” Why or why not?
2. According to Hughes, how does social class and race intersect?
3. What is the “mountain” that Hughes refers to? Why do you think it exists?
4. Who does Hughes blame for the “mountain”?
5. What are the implications of this essay to our society today? Do Hughes’s claims still ring true? Why or why not?

Come up with 1-2 questions of your own and discuss them. Write the question and summarize the responses.

1.

2.

Reflect on small group discussion:

1. How was it different discussing this essay in a small group as compared to shared inquiry discussion?
2. What was an idea or issue that members of your group did not agree on? What were the different perspectives?