

“Rhetorical listening” speech response to Wilson’s speech

Mr. Wilson has given an excellent speech on the importance of the recognition of African American culture and the empowerment of blacks. I can say that I definitely agree with Mr. Wilson’s belief that African American culture needs to be recognized, and is a separate entity from white or European culture. In his speech, Mr. Wilson talked about the importance of race and how it helps shape people’s identities or how they view themselves. I wholeheartedly agree with his view that race helps shape, or at least helps to shape, the culture of a group of people. However, while I agree with Mr. Wilson on this, I do not agree that race should also determine one’s future.

I responded the way I did to Wilson’s speech due to a certain number of factors. While I grew up extremely differently, in a different setting and under different circumstances, I received education regarding such topics as race and the pervasive presence of inequality. Due to this, I may have slightly different opinions since I never had first-hand experiences of what Wilson was describing, but I can understand where he is coming from. I was motivated by my beliefs – the ones that have helped shape me into what I am today – to respond the way I did to Wilson’s speech. My beliefs and values are not equal to Wilson’s, therefore there may be certain discrepancies between how he and I view certain issues. Additionally, I was motivated by my knowledge of certain issues involving race that are currently on-going to respond the way I did. I had the chance to observe the unequal treatment of whites and blacks which is why I responded favorably to Wilson’s idea that blacks should empower themselves and recognize their deep culture instead of being pushed around by other ignorant beliefs that try to determine a culture (or lack of culture) for African Americans. My education, experience, and past helped shape my response to Wilson’s beliefs on what blacks should do.