

Mr. Wilson, I agree with the emphasis you place on race in this country. I also support your idea of African Americans having a unique culture, rather than just occupying a small role in white, European culture. You have struggled to be respected in the predominantly white intellectual, theater community and I believe that this phenomenon is unjust. Your ability to eloquently explain your stance on multiple issues and to do so peacefully, only reinforces your qualifications and your intellect. The Black Power Movement in the 1960's may have shaped your personality initially, but since race relations in the United States changed so drastically, especially in your time, I believe that your original perspective has been broadened by your real-life plight and other experiences. The African American community, like you said, has so much to offer America culturally, but unfortunately the ignorance of others bars the rest of us from learning about that intricate culture.

I believe I responded to your speech in the way that I did due to both my family history and the current environment of race relations in the United States. I was raised by parents who underwent two immigrations, and struggled with oppression in two different countries. It shocks me that even in today's world, your ideas are still so relevant, which is why I think that your focus on race as one of the most important characteristics of a person is accurate. Having heard countless stories about my family, and the oppression they faced, I can somewhat understand, obviously not entirely, your experience. As Russians in Israel, my parents were viewed as alcoholics and lazy and generally looked down upon. They could not get into certain universities, but there was minimal actual violence against them. The black community has suffered far more, and I support your arguments because even the little bias I experienced against myself growing up enraged me, so I cannot imagine how you must have felt. The psychological damage that consistent condescending speech and hatred inflicts on a person should never have to be experienced by a human being, so upon hearing about your exclusion from the prominent theater community, I too became angry, so I responded with this emotion.