

## Writing Prompt 1:

1.

This speech was delivered by August Wilson at the 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Theatre Communications Group. He begins his speech by stating that he is not here to speak for anyone. He reaffirms the fact that there are many intelligent African Americans working in the American Theatre history who have equally loud and distinct voices. He then goes on to say that he is here to talk about: the grounds on which he and his ancestors have toiled on and the grounds of theatre on which he and his fellow artists have worked long and hard to bring forward the theatre's truths. This part of the speech is crucial as the audience slowly begins to realize the speaker's motivation and where this motivation is coming from. The speaker describes the two distinct worlds he comes from: Theatre and Home. He talks about his motivation to participate in the Black Power Movement in the 1960s and cleverly uses imagery as a means to make the audience picture in the heads the state of the African Americans when they were being transported in slave ships. He talks about how African American Culture is often neglected and how it is crucial to understand others arts, history and culture and not leave them in the shadows. However, I do not believe in the fact that Race is the single most defining character of an individual. People should not be judged based on their race.

2.

Wilson's speech was powerful and left me in deep thought. Through the speech I realized the struggles his people and his ancestors had to go through in order to be recognized. I also thought that the speaker used stylistic devices extremely well in his speech and this prompted me to respond in such a way. However, in my speech above I criticized how August Wilson believed that Race is man's single most important personality. Though humans may be divided into different races, we are still one species. One should not distinguish others on the basis of skin color, language, caste, religion etc. In today's day and age, I feel that nationality is a more important personality than Race as it provokes a sense of unity among a much larger population of people. Though we may never unite as one population, uniting under our country's banner is something I feel is much more important than uniting under a Race. Uniting under a Race often leads to unnecessary bloodshed. Though countries go through wars and conflicts, they are often initiated by religion and race. One of the most prevalent examples is that of the ongoing conflicts between Pakistan and India. These conflicts were brought about Muslims hating Hindus and vice versa. Similarly, African Americans are still oppressed due to people thinking they are a minority. If race did not exist, all humans would be seen in an equal footing. Race divides people on a much larger basis than that of countries and states etc. Today, nationalism and patriotism are more important than uniting with on Race.