**Race, Gender, and Ethnic Equability: An Autobiography**

**Mr. Cass: 2017**

**(Adopted and adapted: Professor David Spener**, **Trinity University 2013)**

**Florida SouthWestern Collegiate High School**

[**http://web.trinity.edu/about-us/diversity/race-ethnicity-and-me-project**](http://web.trinity.edu/about-us/diversity/race-ethnicity-and-me-project)

**Assignment Instructions:**

Students will write an autobiographical essay that reflects upon and analyzes how the structure of race, gender, and/or ethnic relations in the United States (or in other countries where you have lived) has impacted the path of your own life in some substantial way.

Reflect, for example, on how occurrences we have studied – such as religious, racial/ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, institutional discrimination within the media, conformity, letters written for the *Breakfast Club*, or the term assimilation – have played a role in making you who you are, or in making it harder/easier for you to become who you would like to be in the future.

If there is some aspect of your life that we have not addressed in class, you will need to do some research into other matters we have not covered. For example, mental health problems, intergenerational conflicts, immigration issues in regard to assimilation, or, gay, lesbian, and transgender issues.

**Specifications:**

**Length:** 1,000-2,000 words – not including your brief biography (see samples)

* Format: Typed: 12-point Times New Roman font
* Unique title
* Description and effects of event(s) that have impacted your life
* Identification of **two sociological theories** that support the events that have impacted your life
* **Use of scholarly sources:** You will need to relate your life experiences to at

least two (2) *scholarly* books/articles/reports, **in addition to**any materials that have already been assigned for the course (your textbook). In essence, your life experience needs to relate to a sociological theory and your scholarly sources should take a sociological approach to the understanding of your core topic.

**Citations and references**:

* All sources MUST be cited parenthetically in the text **and be included in a reference list** at the end of the paper in APA format.

**Appropriate research/theory sources for this assignment include:**

* Scholarly books written by sociologists/anthropologists or other social scientists employing

approaches consistent with those used by sociologists/anthropologists that study racial/ethnic

relations.

* Scholarly articles on racial/ethnic relations published by sociologists/anthropologists in scholarly

journals (i.e., journals aimed at an academic audience, not a general readership—examples include

*The American Journal of Sociology*, *Racial and Ethnic Relations*, *The American Ethnologist*, and

*Social Science Quarterly*.

* Published research reports written by sociologists/anthropologists or other social science

professionals that take sociological/anthropological approaches to their topic: e.g., the U.S. Department

of Justice, the Government Accountability Office, or the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

* **NOTE:** You are welcome to include journalistic reports and articles (from newspapers, popular magazines such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *The Atlantic Monthly*, or on-line sources such as CNN.com) on your bibliography, but these citations do not count towards the minimum number of 2 *scholarly* citations. For additional guidelines for distinguishing between scholarly and popular publications, see the Coates Library web page titled **"**Distinguishing Scholarly Journals from Other Periodicals,” which may be consulted at http://lib.trinity.edu/research/resclass/scholjrs.shtml**.**