

*This Peer Review assignment was created by Professor James Jervis and Writing Fellow Ariel Ducey for the course, "African Americans in the Political System" (BLS 342).*

Attached you will find the deracialization papers by two of your fellow students, sent to you by the editor of a journal that is considering publishing them. The editor has asked you to review the essays and indicate whether and how you think they should be revised. The editor has removed the authors' names from the papers. (Two students in the class have also received your paper.)

For each paper, you are to write a letter back to the editor with your feedback. The letter must be in the following format:

Dear Editor:

[1<sup>st</sup> Paragraph: In your own words, "say back" what you think the author said. What were the author's main points? What were the author's conclusions?]

[2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph: Write *at least* two things that you thought the author did well in this essay—their writing, their ideas, the form of the essay. What caught your attention? What did you like?]

[3<sup>rd</sup> Paragraph: Offer *at least* two ideas for how this essay might be improved. Did the author follow the instructions? Are there things that weren't clear to you? Does the author need to clarify anything? Is the essay well organized? Etc...]

Sincerely,

**Guidelines:**

- Refer to the author of the paper as "the author"
- Make your comments as constructive and helpful as possible
- If your comments are not constructive, you will not receive credit for this assignment

**Turning the assignment in:** Turn in two **typed** copies of each letter attached to the essay it reviews. Sign one copy of each letter; **do not** sign the other copy. The assignment is due on **November 5<sup>th</sup>**. (The signed copy is for the instructor and the unsigned copy is for the author.)

**Grading:** You will not receive a grade on the letters, but you will receive course credit for completion of this assignment. Bear in mind that you will also receive comments on your paper from two classmates.