

Inventory of Our Thinking: The Outsider in Literature/SWS Harris

Note: This is your first official thinking and writing as a member of this class. Take your time and do it justice. Use a Google doc (which you'll submit on edmodo; see syllabus for instructions.) Please number your **answers**.

We'll be referring back to these questions and your answers often over the next 20 weeks. BE specific and thorough. EXPLAIN. GIVE EXAMPLES and ANSWER ALL PARTS OF EVERY QUESTION. **This is a paper grade.**

1. List all of the cultural, institutional, and social groups to which you belong. If you need a structure, try starting with the most global/macro, and ending with the most local/micro. You should have at least 10 or so.
2. Of the above groups, which ones would be considered "dominant culture," and which ones are more marginal?
3. Name a time you had power and didn't want it.
4. Name a time you wanted power but didn't have it. Reflect on both of these (3 and 4) . Wonder. Notice.
5. Who is the most visionary person you know? How do you know they're visionary? Is there anything about them you want to emulate? Anything about them that frightens you?
6. Name a person you know (or a character) who exists on the margins of society. Then, try to describe how they came to be that way. Then, wonder/report about that person's daily life --their struggles and challenges with people and institutions, their hopes, dreams, barriers, etc.
7. Look up **Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs**. Does this make sense? Is there some way you might reconfigure it?
8. When, if ever, is it necessary to sacrifice personal happiness to serve a larger cause/for the greater good? Have you ever done so? Do you know anyone who has?
9. What are the risks of rebelling? Of not rebelling? Explain.
10. What would happen if there were no outsiders? How would the world, and your world, be different?
11. Do you think there are any ongoing conflicts between groups that are intractable—that will likely never be resolved? What is the root of the intractability? What would need to happen in order to resolve the conflict? Be specific.
12. Who is the most deviant, threatening outsider you can think of? Tell us what makes them threatening.
13. Who is the most inspiring outsider you can think of? Tell us what makes them inspiring.
14. To what extent do you think that teenagers, as a group, are (by definition) outsiders?
15. Are there privileges you have as a member of a dominant group that you don't think you're very aware of? (Even if there may be other contexts in which you'd find yourself to be a member of the marginal or oppressed group.) Take some time to think about what you get to do/ways you get to be that are made possible by virtue of your belonging to the dominant group.
16. Is it possible to effect change from within? Explain, perhaps by giving an example of someone who did so. Or, if your answer is no, explain why you don't think it's possible.