This essay will allow you to use your “gift of study” to research and address a question (or questions) related to the language of identity that you have thought about and would like to explore more closely.

To help you decide on what question(s) you will be addressing, it may be easier to first decide on who you want your reader to be. That’s right. You get to borrow the literary convention used by Ta-Nehisi Coates in *Between The World and Me* and direct your essay to a specific person. This person may be someone you know well, like a relative or close friend, or even someone you know less intimately, like a coworker or acquaintance. It may even be someone who has deceased or has yet to be born. The decision is yours and will depend on both what question you wish to explore, and who you decide needs to read what you have to write.

Maybe you want to explain to someone about why they should rethink the way they use a certain word that may be deemed offensive. Maybe, like Coates, you would like to advise someone younger than you about the realities of the world as you see it.

You may just want to learn more about any of the ideas, words, concepts, issues, and/or recent events that have come up this semester and want to share this knowledge, as well as your experiences, with someone else. This does not mean that you will be writing something based primarily on opinion. The argument you present will be supported, and most likely influenced by, personal experience and insight; however, the majority of your argument will need to be supported with evidence from at least 3 credible sources (one of these may consist of any of our class texts).

The hybrid nature of this narrative/argumentative essay may seem foreign in a college course, but it is actually quite common for writers to weave personal narrative into essays that also present an argument based on research, as many of our class texts demonstrate.

Requirements:
- Your essay must be 4-6 pages long, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, and formatted according to MLA guidelines.
- Your essay must include references (direct quote and paraphrase) to at least 3 self-selected articles from reliable newspapers, magazines, books or journals; and will also need to include personal anecdotes and observations.
- Your essay must have a strong thesis that is well supported through well-developed, unified and coherent body paragraphs that contain effective topic sentences.