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Mrs. Flory

English 10P Period 6

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Article of the Week #1

When looking at the “Purposes for Writing” chart, it seems that the author utilized all of the purposes of writing when he composed this article. However, the purposes that seemed to be the most prominent were to express and reflect, and to seek common ground. This article was written for high school students and adults. The fact that it was published in the *Miami Herald*, a respected newspaper, confirms the age level of the intended audience.

In the article titled “In My Opinion: Don’t lower the bar on education standards” written by Leonard Pitts Jr., and published in the *Miami Herald* (November 24, 2012), the author passionately invites his readers to understand the subject of inequality based solely on skin color, and its devastating impacts on today’s children.

Option 2: Part I:

“Write down 5 things you learned by reading this week’s article.”

Five things I learned by reading this week’s article were:

1. In today’s world, there are unequal academic expectations placed on black students when compared to their white classmates.

2. There is a sense of “reverse racism” occurring in our school system and culture.

3. Though this differentiation of black students versus white students was intended to support black students, it is having a negative impact on ALL students.

4. Black children are internalizing feelings of inferiority and “inherent defectiveness” as a result of the lowered expectations placed upon them.

5. The solution is not lowering the bar, but rather lifting the kids.

Option 2: Part II:

“Which of these 5 do you think is the *most important* to know? **Explain**”

I think that the last statement, which proposes the current situation and then reframes it to

present a healthy solution, is the most important statement to remember. The problem is the assumption that black students need modifications in terms of attaining academic achievements, and this assumption is solely based on biased generalizations and perceptions. The solution is just a reversal of stereotypical beliefs. Viewing all students as equally capable and helping to support them based on individual circumstances rather than on the color of their skin is a move in the right direction. Not only is it positive for students, but it eliminates feelings of hopelessness and inferiority that the children might internally adopt. If messages of hopefulness, equal treatment and opportunities, and individual support for all students are the focus, children will tend to develop positive feelings of esteem for both themselves and for all that they have to offer to the world.