**Journal Set 1**

**Due \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (The class period after the first paper is due)**

**25 points / See rubric for grading details**

**Journal #1:** Complete before you complete the reading due in Week 2

Many elements come together throughout our lives to shape our identities. What external factors have affected your identity? You might begin by considering more general issues, such as your gender, race, or class. There might also be specific experiences or people that profoundly affected your identity. Be sure that with each experience you note, you try to pinpoint how this has affected your identity, how you see yourself, or how others see you.

**Journal #2:** Complete after you have read both Malcolm X and Keller

In what ways did Malcolm X's race and class affect his identity before he entered prison? How was his life shaped by elements that were beyond his control? Once in prison, do you think he was able to assert more control over his identity? What conditions in prison led to this change? Further, how did Malcolm X's self education affect his identity? Use specific details from the essay to prove your point.

**Journal #3:** Complete after you have read and annotated both Malcolm X and Keller

After considering the purpose of each essay and how they speak to your own experience with education and the development of your identity, write down two quotes of at least two sentences from each essay. This will mean writing down at least four quotes total, two from each essay. With each essay, be sure to put quotes around direct language, and also be sure you note the page number so you can use the quote in future papers.

After writing down the quote, write at least three or four sentences explaining what you find significant about each quote. Why is this quote central to the story? What emotions or point does it express? In what ways does this quote speak to your experience?

**Journal #4:** Complete after you have read Douglass

When the story begins, who is Frederick Douglass and where has he derived his ideas and identity thus far? How was Frederick Douglass' identity shaped by the expectations of the society around him? How did he work to overcome these expectations? How difficult was it for Douglass to become the person he felt he was inside? Relay a few examples from the story to prove your point. In the end, do you feel that Frederick Douglass has taken charge of his own identity to some degree? Do you think that, under the system of slavery, it would ever be possible for Douglass to take true charge of his identity? Why or why not?

**Journal #5:** Complete after you have read Plato

Many times gaining knowledge changes not only the way we see ourselves but also the way that society sees us. How does Plato describe the society in the cave? What aspects of these individuals' lives are within their control and what aspects are beyond their control? When the hypothetical person leaves the cave, how does his view of the world change? How do you think this affects the cave dweller's identity? Once the cave dweller has undergone this change, how does the society in the cave react to him? In the end, what point do you think Plato makes about knowledge with this dialogue? Further, what conclusions can you draw about the impact of knowledge on one's identity as well as the power of a society over a person's identity?

**Journal #6:** Complete after you have read and annotated both Plato and Douglass

After considering the purpose of each essay and how they speak to your own experience with education and the development of your identity, write down two quotes of at least two sentences from each essay. This will mean writing down at least four quotes total, two from each essay. With each essay, be sure to put quotes around direct language, and also be sure you note the page number so you can use the quote in future papers.

After writing down the quote, write at least three or four sentences explaining what you find significant about each quote. Why is this quote central to the story? What emotions or point does it express? In what ways does this quote speak to your experience?

**Narrative: Identity Analysis**

**(100 points—3 pages)**

We are beginning to read a set of narrative essays about key experiences in the development of thinkers, scholars, and individuals. Now, it is your turn to write a narrative. Construct a double-spaced document with 1” margins in 12pt. font that explores an important experience that shaped your identity. By the end of the essay, try to relate your experience to a larger topic that applies to many people and/or by trying to tell the lesson you learned in this experience and how it affects you as a person today.

We all have lots of events, people, and assumptions that have shaped us as individuals, but try to zero in on one key experience and detail that experience and its effect. You are being asked to use only experience for this assignment, so detail is key. Set the scene, introduce some characters, work with a symbol, construct a conversation through dialogue, and flex those creative muscles. Make some meaning with your experience and draw the reader in at the same time.

Mechanics will count on this essay but taking chances with the punctuation we have been talking about will get you further than making short sentences you know are correct. Join some simple sentences into compound sentences; work on relaying details through complex sentences; and maybe even try a semicolon, a colon, or both!

**Journal Set 2**

**Due \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (The class period after the second paper is due)  
25 points / See rubric for grading details**

**Journal #1: Personal Response**

At this point in the semester, we have read quite a few essays about the impact of society as well as knowledge on a person's identity. How do you think the expectations of others have shaped your identity? Were there times when you felt you changed your identity to please others? Or have there been times when you felt the prejudices or expectations of others made them see you in a different way then you see yourself? Spend some time reflecting on these questions and consider relaying a personal experience or two that explains How does it feel when you are judged by others to be less than or different from how you see yourself?

**Journal #2: Complete after reading Staples**

Brent Staples explores a very topical issue in this essay: the contradiction between who he is as a black man and how society views him. What elements does Staples give to fill the reader in on his identity and life? How is his identity and the way he sees himself in conflict with the way he is viewed by others and society? What examples does he give to make his point about black men in public space? In the end, what do you think Staples' point is about the role that race plays in an individual's identity? What does this teach us about the impact of societal expectations and assumptions on an individual's identity?

**Journal #3: Complete after reading Hughes and Staples**

After considering the purpose of each essay and how they speak to your own experience with the influence of external forces (society, the beliefs or wants of others, etc.) on your identity, write down two quotes of at least two sentences from each essay. This will mean writing down at least four quotes total, two from each essay. With each essay, be sure to put quotes around direct language, and also be sure you note the page number so you can use the quote in future papers. After writing down the quote, write at least three or four sentences explaining what you find significant about each quote. Why is this quote central to the story? What emotions or point does it express? In what ways does this quote speak to your experience?

**Journal #4: Complete after you have read Blum**

In this essay, Blum offers a complicated discussion of the classic nature vs. nurture debate. When Blum had her own children, how did her view on the influence of sex on identity change? Why did it change? What other issues does Blum explore in her discussion? What examples interested you? In the end, what influence does Blum suggest that biology has on our gender identities? How much of this is "socially constructed" or influenced by society's expectations for us as men and women? What role does sex and the social expectations of the sexes play in the formation of identity

**Journal #5: Complete after reading Gregory**

Dick Gregory grew up a poor minority, but his essay speaks much more to the influence of class on one's identity. In what ways was Gregory labeled as "poor" and how did he try to combat being labeled in this way? How did this labeling affect Gregory's identity? In the end, how did the perspective and assumptions of others change Gregory's view of himself as well as his view of education? Finally, what do you think the final story adds to Gregory's point? Does it too make a point about the development of his identity or is he simply commenting on poverty? Explain your point.

**Journal #6: Complete after reading Blum and Gregory**

After considering the purpose of each essay and how they speak to your own experience with the influence of gender and class on your own life, find two to three quotes of at least two sentences each from each essay (so between 4 and 6 quote total) that you feel speaks to the author's main point or works as evidence for your opinion on the essay. Write each of these quotes in the journal, leaving space in between and making sure to note which author and page each quote came from.

After you write down the quote, write at least three or four sentences explaining what you find significant about each quote. Why is this quote central to the story? What emotions or point does it express? In what ways does this quote speak to your experience? identity, write down two quotes of at least two sentences from each essay. This will mean writing down at least four quotes total, two from each essay. With each essay, be sure to put quotes around direct language, and also be sure you note the page number so you can use the quote in future papers. After writing down the quote, be sure to

**Rough Draft Due:**

**Final Draft Due:**

**Exploring the Identities of Others (100 points—3 pages)**

**The Assignment**

We have now read a series of narrative essays about key experiences in the evolution of thinkers, scholars and individuals. These essays have explored the impact that external forces as well as internal motivation can have on a person's identity. Now, it is time to relay these ideas to other readers and consider putting your own experience in the mix.

Construct a double-spaced document with 1” margins in 12pt. font that explores your educational experience in relation to at least two experiences from others. Find two (or more) essays that speak to your experience as an individual. You might agree or disagree with these essays, but chances are your feelings are a lot more complicated than that: explore those complications. Begin with questions and details, and work on weaving the stories together. What can we learn from these experiences? In what ways do these experiences respond to, question, argue with, agree with, or reflect your own? What conclusions can you draw about the impact of external forces on a person's identity from these experiences? In the end, you can choose two essays and a personal experience or, if you don't have a personal experience that relates, you can use three essays from the course.

This could include some content from outside the course, which is fine, but make sure you communicate with me about this decision so we can make sure the source, story, etc. is appropriate for the assignment. You will need to include this outside source on a works cited page if you do use an outside source.

Again, keep focusing on longer sentences this time. Also, however, add some concern for MLA to this essay: do your best to put direct quotes within quotations and use skillful summary and signal phrases to introduce your quotes. You don’t need a works cited if you are only using essays we have read in the course, but make sure that your ideas are distinguishable from the words and ideas of others within the essay.

At the minimum, you should have two quotes in your essay, but a person trying for an "A" will probably have four or more. And again, you should use either two essays we have read and a personal experience OR three essays from the course.