

THIS I BELIEVE ESSAY:

Assignment Sheet, Tut 100-33 (Prof. Thomas)

OUTLINE Due: Tuesday, Sep. 4 by class time – **Bring a hard copy to class**

FINAL ESSAY Due: by Thursday, Sep. 6 @5:00pm

SUBMISSION: Email thomasjm@grinnell.edu with subject line: “TUT100 – TIB”

This assignment will be your first assignment at Grinnell College. Please write a brief essay modeled on NPR’s series entitled “This I Believe.” The subject of your paper will be to present your thoughts on “color-blind” and “color-conscious” casting in the performing arts. This is your opportunity, prior to any study of casting in this course, to relate what you believe to be the responsibility of production teams (playwrights, directors, actors, producers, etc.) with regards to creating and presenting plays. Some possible ways to approach this essay might be:

- 1) Should directors cast the best performer for a role regardless of the performers’ ethnicities?
- 2) Is it ok for performers to portray a character whose ethnicity is other than their own?
- 3) Does a playwright have the final say about character and actor ethnicity?

The content and ideas of your paper are yours and yours alone, although you must analyze and cite one source (article, discussion, book chapter, video interview, etc.) in support of your argument. This is a statement about what *you* think are important and appropriate considerations when casting productions right now, at the start of your college careers, and you must support your ideas with evidence.

Your paper will be no longer than two, double-spaced pages using 12-point font. While this paper will present your own view, I have provided you with a few links on our course home-page that may provide you with useful commentary as you begin this project.

Point Breakdown:

Outline:	25 pts
Final Draft:	50 pts
Total:	75 pts
