

Tut-100-33, The Great White Way: Race and the American Musical

Paper #2 Assignment:

Topic (Thesis Statement): Wednesday, Sep. 19 @ 5:00pm

Outline: Friday, Sep. 21 by 9:00pm

Rough Draft: Sep. 25 IN CLASS

Final Draft: Friday, Sep. 28 by 5:00pm

The Theatrical Divide: Equity or “Subsidized Separatism”?

Theatre is a place in which audiences can explore and wrestle with the human condition, and as such, theatre reflects upon our communities and humanity. But as we have examined early in this course, there are limits to the theatrical stories currently being told in our theatres.

In the 1990's, the public debate between Brustein and Wilson shone a light on the issue of access to the theatrical community; who determines which plays are produced? Who determines who is cast? Where and why are limits placed upon access to the theatre? Brustein and Wilson differ in their ideas about creating unity, equity, and access in the theatre community. Using arguments from their debate, each student will research and write a paper articulating his/her/their vision about equity and access in the theatre, in essence, answering the question of whether funding and support of minority productions, playwrights, and companies equates to an attempt at equity or subsidized separatism.

The goal of this assignment is not to think like another scholar or simply to recreate his/her/their argument. Rather, you must utilize your scholarly abilities to examine, interpret, and connect class readings and personal research to craft your own argument that successfully supports arguments in the Brustein/Wilson debate.

The paper should be between 1000-1200 words in its initial submission, and each student must include *at least* one scholarly source (other than Brustein or Wilson) in support of their arguments. Remember to review the Purdue OWL site for the MLA Style Guidelines and citation examples, and please note the dates for submission of your topic, outline, and rough drafts on the updated course calendar on our website