You will need to carefully read the selection below and complete various activities using the essay as your basis.

Using the highlight function on your computer, you will need to mark the essay below. It will be necessary for you to read the essay several times to fully understand the essay and complete the markings in such a way that demonstrates a close reading of the essay. You will need to use the following chart to correctly mark the essay.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Highlight Color | Item to be identified | Use an X to indicate you have accomplished this task. Use NA if this task did not apply to this essay. |
| PINK | Mark the main idea of the essay. |  |
| AQUA | Mark key examples/ support for the main idea/ theme of the essay. |  |
| GREEN | Mark statements that you agree with . |  |
| YELLOW | Mark statements that are new to you or make you think in a new way. |  |
| RED | Mark statements in the essay that you disagree with. |  |
| GRAY | Mark terms/ concepts that you found difficult to understand. |  |

The time I began reading and marking this assignment was:

Yes Mam/Sir originated during slavery in the South. It traveled from the front of the plantations, deep within the cotton fields. It came through the Underground Railroads. It went to the back of corner stores and town restaurants. It would not give up its seat on the front of the bus. Yes Mam/Sir has traveled far, but it has not lost its true meaning. I believe that Yes Mam/Sir is an offering of honor to who receives it and humility to who gives it.

Growing up my Dad had many rules. Some of them would change from day to day, situation to situation, or from child to child. One rule that never wavered was the rule of saying yes Mam/Sir to your elderly or anyone of authority. This was out of respect for who they were, what they had accomplished or simply their age. Yes Mam/ Sir was imbedded deep within my dad’s morals, it now resides in mine.

I had a child at the gentle age of nineteen. I was now responsible for instilling morals into someone else, and felt this required my undivided attention. From the time he could talk I taught him the importance of Yes Mam/Sir. I judged how his friends were raised by their ability to offer it, and would look deep into the lives of those that did not. To my pleasing his inner circle all came from good up bringings and was taught the importance of yes Mam/Sir. I found great joy in hearing them say it, until they started saying it to me. I did not feel worthy of the honor that came from yes Mam/Sir.

I had no problem offering the honor of yes Mam/Sir to someone else and receiving the humility for myself; but I did not feel worthy of receiving the honor and allowing the other person to receive the humility. I was not anybody. I had not been through or accomplished anything. I was in no way deserving of this honor. I received humility every time someone offered me the honor that came from yes Mam/Sir.

I am now a thirty-nine year old college freshman. I sit next to students my son’s exact age, who sometimes say yes mam to me. I have defeated bullying and peer pressure. I have overturned the stigma associated with teen pregnancy. I won the battle with domestic violence. I knocked out being a single parent in the projects. I gave depression a one way ticket home. I withstand the joys and jolts of being a wife, mother and student. I still believe that yes Mam/Sir is an offering of honor to who receives it and humility to who gives it. I am finally accepting of that honor.

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| Your response should be self-contained. When someone reads your responses, they should be able to tell which question you are responding to.  In marking the essay you should be clear in what idea and item you are reacting to. The markings should indicate a close and personal reading of the essay. Excessive markings or lack of markings may indicate a failure to have closely read and comprehended the essay. |  |
| Based on your reading and marking of the essay identify the main idea of the essay as well as support including direct quotations and evidence from the essay. Your response should be limited to no more than one (1) well written and adequately edited paragraph. |  |
| Using at least two (2) of the writing prompts below and in no more than three (3) well written and adequately edited paragraphs create a response to the essay:   * The part (s) of the essay I agreed with were * The part (s) of the essay I disagreed with were * This essay reminded me of/ made me think of * This essay made me think in a new way * This essay was similar to another essay |  |
| What question (s) would you like to ask the author of this essay? Explain your reasoning for wanting to have the answer to this question. |  |
| Having now read this essay I… |  |
| **Presenters Only:** You will need to have three (3) questions that you would like to present to your classmates during your seminar. |  |

The time I completed reading and marking this assignment was: