

Lesson 10 A More Perfect Nation (Part II)

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

JIM CROW

BROWN VS. BOARD OF EDUCATION

FHA mortgages

Building Code

Reagan coalition

the glass ceiling for women

The O.J. trial

Jim Crow

- The Jim Crow laws were state and local laws in the United States enacted between 1876 and 1965. They mandated *de jure* racial segregation in all public facilities in Southern states of the former Confederacy, with, starting in 1890, a "separate but equal" status for African Americans. The separation in practice led to conditions for African Americans that tended to be inferior to those provided for white Americans, systematizing a number of economic, educational and social disadvantages. *De jure* segregation mainly applied to the Southern United States. Northern segregation was generally *de facto*, with patterns of segregation in housing enforced by covenants, bank lending practices, and job discrimination, including discriminatory union practices for decades.
- Some examples of Jim Crow laws are the segregation of public schools, public places, and public transportation, and the segregation of restrooms, restaurants, and drinking fountains for whites and blacks. The U.S. military was also segregated.
- These Jim Crow Laws followed the 1800–1866 Black Codes, which had previously restricted the civil rights and civil liberties of African Americans with no pretense of equality. State-sponsored school segregation was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States in 1954 in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Generally, the remaining Jim Crow laws were overruled by the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Brown vs. Board of education

Brown v. Board of Education (1954), was a landmark United States Supreme Court case in which the Court declared state laws establishing separate public schools for black and white students unconstitutional. The decision overturned the *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision of 1896 which allowed state-sponsored segregation. Handed down on May 17, 1954, the Warren Court's unanimous (9–0) decision stated that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." As a result, de jure racial segregation was ruled a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. This ruling paved the way for integration and was a major victory of the civil rights movement.

Legalized discrimination

- **Legal discrimination** is an obvious correspondence between the old and new systems of control and oppression. A large percentage of black men are branded "felons" early in their lives, which subjects them to long periods, if not a lifetime, of legalized discrimination in many fields that often have to do with vital human necessities and [citizenship](#) rights. By legal and practical extensions, people around them, such as family members, are affected by legalized discrimination as well, which puts in this category a huge segment, in a sense the totality, of low income communities of color.

Building Code

- A **building code**, or building control, is a set of rules that specify the minimum acceptable level of safety for constructed objects such as buildings and nonbuilding structures. The main purpose of building codes are to protect public health, safety and general welfare as they relate to the construction and occupancy of buildings and structures. The building code becomes law of a particular jurisdiction when formally enacted by the appropriate authority. The major model building codes used in the United States are developed by the International Code Council (ICC).

Reagan coalition

- The **Reagan coalition** was the combination of voters that Republican Ronald Reagan assembled to produce a major political realignment with his landslide in the 1980 United States Presidential Election. In 1980 the Reagan coalition was possible because of Democrat Jimmy Carter's losses in most social-economic groups. In 1984 Reagan confirmed his support by winning nearly 60% of the popular vote and carried 49 of the 50 states. The Reagan Democrats were Democrats before the Reagan years, and afterwards, but who voted for Ronald Reagan in 1980 and 1984 (and for George H. W. Bush in 1988), producing their landslide victories. They were mostly white, socially conservative blue-collar workers, who lived in the Northeast, and were attracted to Reagan's social conservatism on issues such as abortion, and to his hawkish foreign policy. They did not continue to vote Republican in 1992 or 1996, so the term fell into disuse except as a reference to the 1980s. The term is not generally used to describe the southern whites who permanently changed party affiliation from Democrat to Republican during the Reagan administration, and they have largely remained Republican to this day.

the glass ceiling

- the **glass ceiling** is "the unseen, yet barrier that keeps minorities and women from rising to the upper career position, regardless of their qualifications or achievements." Initially, the metaphor applied to barriers in the careers of women but was quickly extended to refer to obstacles hindering the advancement of minority men, as well as women.

The O.J. trial (line 168)

- This refers to the trial of O.J. Simpson. O.J. Simpson is a retired African-American football player, broadcaster, spokesman and actor. He was charged in 1994 with murder of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman, both white. In 1995, Simpson was acquitted of the murder of the murder after a lengthy, internationally publicized criminal trial, which was often characterized as “the trial of the century,” culminated on October 3, 1995 in a jury verdict of not guilty for the two murders. The verdict was seen live on TV by more than half of the U.S population, making it one of the most watched events in American TV history. Immediate reaction to the verdict was notable for its division along racial lines. In September 2007, Simpson was arrested and charged with numerous felonies, including armed robbery and kidnapping. A jury found Simpson guilty of all charges on October 3, 2008; and he was sentenced on December 5 to at least nine years in prison.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

line 5 But we do need to remind ourselves that so many of the disparities that exist in the African-American community today can be directly traced to inequalities passed on from an earlier generation that suffered under the brutal legacy of slavery and Jim Crow.

① **Disparity:** (n.) Inequality or difference in some respect

Example: the disparity between rich and poor has been narrowed.

② **brutal:** (adj.) Resembling a beast; showing lack of human sensibility

Example: black people have been forced to be slaves for years by a *brutal* way

③ **legacy:** (n.) (law) a gift of personal property by will

Example: she received a small legacy in her father's will.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

Line 9 Segregated schools were, and are, inferior schools; we still haven't fixed them, fifty years after Brown v. Board of Education, and the inferior education they provided, then and now, helps explain the pervasive achievement gap between today's black and white students

① **inferior**: (adj.) of or characteristic of low rank or importance.

Example: the black child received a inferior education, which may decide their destiny.

② **pervasive**: (adj.) spreading or spread throughout
example: computers are so pervasive nowadays.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

Line19: -meant that black families could not amass any meaningful wealth to bequeath to future generations.

(1) Amass: (verb) if you amass something such as money or information, you gradually get a lot of it.

Example: People tend to amass possessions, sometimes without being aware of doing so.

(2) Bequeath: (verb) leave it for other people to use or develop

Example: He bequeathed all his silver to his children

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

Line40: But for all those who scratched and clawed their way to get a piece of the American Dream.

(1) Scratch: (verb) thinking hard and trying to solve a problem or puzzle.

Example: The Company spends a lot of time scratching its head about how to boost its productivity.

(2) Claw one's way to: move there with great difficulty, trying desperately to find things to hold on to.

Example: Some people did manage to claw their way up to the safety of the upper deck.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

Line45: who we see standing on street corners or languishing in our prisons.

Languish: (verb) means people are forced to remain and suffer in an unpleasant situation

Example: No one knows for certain how many refugees wander the world today, or languish in camps.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

L53: But it does find voice in the barbershop or the beauty shop or around the kitchen table.

Barbershop: (n.) a shop where men can get their hair cut.

Example: She opened up a barbershop of her own.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

L55: At times, that anger is exploited by politicians, to **gin up** votes along racial lines, or to make up for a politician's own failings.

Gin up:(v.) arouse, evoke

Example: If so, developers are happy to gin up an antidote by applying more of the same.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

L58:And occasionally it finds voice in the church on Sunday morning, in the pulpit and in the pews.

(1)Pulpit:(n.)a platform raised above the surrounding level to give prominence to the person on it

Example:You don't need a choir, or a pulpit or anything else you can see.

(2)Pew:(n.)long bench with backs; used in church by the congregation.

Example:People sat on the pew and listened to the priest.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

L60: The fact that so many people.....simply reminds us of the old truism that the most segregated.....

Truism:(n.)an obvious truth

Example:It is a truism that we never really know the value of something until we lose it.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

L63: it keeps us from squarely facing our own complicity within the

Complicity:(n.)guilt as an accomplice in a crime or offence.

Example:He denied complicity in the murder.

L68: and to simply wish it away, to condemn it.....only serves to widen the chasm of misunderstanding that exists....

Chasm:(n.)a deep opening in the earth's surface

Example:There is always a vast chasm between rich and poor.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

Line70: In fact, a similar anger exists within segments of the white community

Segment: one of several parts or pieces that fit with others to constitute a whole object

Example: The company dominates this segment of the market

Line78: They are anxious about their futures, and feel their dreams slipping away; in an era of stagnant wages and global competition, opportunity comes to be seen as a zero sum game, in which your dreams come at my expense.

Stagnant: not growing or changing; without force or vitality

Example: Due to low investment, our industrial output has remained stagnant

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

Line93 Talk show hosts and conservative commentators built entire careers unmasking bogus claims of racism while dismissing legitimate discussions of racial injustice and inequality as mere political correctness or reverse racism.

Bogus: fraudulent; having a misleading appearance

Example: The telegram turned out to have been bogus.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

Line97: Just as black anger often proved counterproductive, so have these white resentments distracted attention from the real culprits of the middle class squeeze.

Culprit: someone who perpetrates wrongdoing

Example: The hunt is on for the culprit.

16、 Line98: A corporate culture rife with inside dealing, questionable accounting practices, and short-term greed.

Rife: full of something bad or unpleasant.

Example: Superstition is still rife in country districts

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

Line100: A Washington dominated by lobbyists and special interests.

Lobbyist: someone who is employed to persuade legislators to vote for legislation that favors the lobbyist's employer

Example: Her husband is a lobbyist, and familiar with almost every senator.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

Line 120: But it also means binding our particular grievances—for better health care, and better schools, and better jobs—to the larger aspirations of all Americans.

(1)bind: If something binds people together, it makes them feel as if they are all part of the same group or have something in common.

Example: He already bound the recovery of country to this civil movement.

(2)grievances: If you have a grievance about something that has happened or been done, you believe that it was unfair

Example: They can't bear the grievances of the poor.

Line 131: Ironically, this quintessentially American—and yes, conservative—
notion of self-help found frequent expression in Reverend Wright's sermons.

quintessentially: Quintessential means representing the central nature of something.

Example: It's a quintessentially clear example that is eager to decide.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

Line 134: But what my former pastor too often failed to understand is what embarking on a program of self-help also requires a belief that society can change.

embark: If you embark on something new, difficult, or exciting, you start doing it.

Example: She is embarking on a new paint.

Line 138: It's that he spoke as if our society was static; as if no progress has been made; as if this country - a country that has made it possible for one of his own members to run for the highest office in the land and build a coalition of white and black; Latino and Asian, rich and poor, young and old -- is still irrevocably bound to a tragic past.

(1)**Static:** not active or moving

Example: My memory is very deep, because the image is not static.

(2)**Coalition:** an organization of people (or countries) involved in a pact or treaty

Example: If we want to win the game, we must get together and be a coalition to make stronger.

(3)**Irrevocably:** being impossible to change or cancel

Example: He insists that the system of our country is irrevocable because of its long history.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

Line 145: What we have already achieved gives us hope - the audacity to hope - for what we can and must achieve tomorrow.

Audacity: fearless daring

Example: I admire your audacity for what others are afraid of taking this difficult task.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

Line 147: In the white community, the path to a more perfect union means acknowledging that what ails the African-American community does not just exist in the minds of black people; that the legacy of discrimination - and current incidents of discrimination, while less overt than in the past - are real and must be addressed.

(1)**Ail:** make sb feel painful

Example: His sharp words ail my mom' s heart.

(2)**Overt:** obvious

Example: I feel very angry because her action to me is overt.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

Line 162: That we do unto others as we would have them do unto us. 【语法信息】： V on/upon n

Unto: to; towards

Example:

Line 164: Let us find that common stake we all have in one another, and let our politics reflect that spirit as well.

Stake: the sharing right or interest

Example: We are in the same boat and we have the common stake

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

We can **tackle** race only as **spectacle**—as we did in the OJ trial—or **in the wake of** tragedy, as we did in the **aftermath** of Katrina—or as **fodder** for the nightly news.(para.44, line 167-170)

Tackle: to make a determined effort to deal with a difficult problem or situation.

Example: The government is determined to tackle inflation.

Spectacle: a performance or an event that is very impressive and exciting to look at.

Example: The carnival parade was a magnificent spectacle.

In the wake of: coming after or following sb/sth.

Example: There have been demonstrations on the streets in the wake of the recent bomb attack.

Aftermath: the situation that exists as a result of an important (and usually unpleasant) event, especially a war, an accident, ect.

Example: A lot of rebuilding took place in the aftermath of the war.

Fodder: basic material for something

Example: The press conference simply provided more fodder for another attack on his character.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

We can **pounce** on some **gaffe** by a Hillary supporter as evidence that she's playing the race card, or we can **speculate** on whether white men will all **flock to** John McCain in the general election regardless of his policies. (para.44, line 174-177)

Pounce: to quickly jump on or hold someone or something to get some advantage.

Example: If you make a single mistake, he will pounce on you and say you're a fool.

Gaffe: a mistake that a person makes in public or in a social situation, especially sth embarrassing.

Example: I now realize that I should have had the courtesy to acknowledge my gaffe and apologize, but words failed me at the time.

Speculate: to form an opinion about sth without knowing all the details or facts.

Example: We all speculated about the reasons for her resignation.

Flock to: to go or gather together somewhere in large numbers.

Example: People flocked to hear him speak.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

But if we do, I can tell you that in the next election, we'll be talking about some other distraction.(para.46, line 179-180)

Distraction: a thing that takes your attention away from what you are doing or thinking about.

Example: I find it hard to work at home because there are too many distractions.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

This time we want to talk about the crumbling schools that are stealing the future of black children and white children and Asian children and Hispanic children and Native American children . (para.47, line 184-185)

Crumble: to begin to fail or get weaker

Example: We should do something to save the crumbling business.

Hispanic: of or connected with Spain or Spanish-speaking countries, especially those of Latin America

Example: I made friends with a Hispanic girl yesterday.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

This time we want to talk about how the lines in the Emergency Room are filled with whites and blacks and Hispanics who do not have health care; who do not have the power on their own to overcome the special interests in Washington, but who can **take** them **on** if we do it together.(para.48, line 195)

Take...on: to agree to be responsible for sb/sth

Example: After having a look at the poverty of this mountain area, the millionaire decided to take on the economic development to help the local people.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

This time we want to talk about the **shuttered** mills that once provided a decent life for men and women of every race, and the homes for sale that once belonged to Americans from every religion, every region, **every walk of life**.(para.49, line 196-199)

Shutter : (business) close down

Example: The shuttered business in 2009 included mostly of the medium and small-sized enterprises.

Every walk of life: every status and occupation

Example: People from every walk of life should be respected.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

We want to talk about how to bring them home from a war that never should have been **authorized** and never should have been **waged**, and we want to talk about how we'll show our patriotism by caring for them, and their families, and giving them the benefits that they have earned.(para.50, line 207)

Authorize: to give official permission for sth, or for sb to do sth

Example: He was authorized to be in charge of the disaster relief fund.

Wage : to begin and continue a war, a battle, etc.

Example: It is said that the corruption which is waging in China now might destroy the whole country.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

line 233: really want to eat more than anything else was mustard and relish sandwiches.

(1) mustard: a thick cold yellow or brown sauce that tastes hot and spicy and is usually eaten with meat

Eg: I would enjoy my sushi even more if I could dip it in mustard.

(2) relish: a cold thick spicy sauce made from fruit and vegetables that have been boiled, that is served with meat, cheese, etc.

Eg: I want relish and onion on my sandwich.

IMPORTANT LANGUAGE POINTS

line 243: or Hispanics who were coming into the country illegally.

Hispanics: a person whose first language is Spanish, especially one from a Latin American country living in the US or Canada.

Eg: Hispanics are people of Spanish ancestry.

TEXT ANALYSIS

Structure

- Para. 26-36 Reality: complexity of the race issue
26-33 : reality of the black community
34-36: reality of the white community
- Para.37-43 solution : what we (the black and the white) need to

What the black people need to do: their current problem

What the white people need to do

- Para. 44-51 choices
- Para. 52-60 a story and conclusion

Para. 26-35

Complexity of the racial issue

Reality

Black community VS. White Community

26-33 : reality of the black community

- Education
- Legalized discrimination
- Community --- erosion of family, cycle
- People --- Reverend Wright generation/young people/
those who made it / who could not made it
- Emotion: anger

But we do need to remind ourselves that so **many of the disparities** that exist in the African-American community today **can be directly traced to inequalities** passed on from an earlier generation that suffered under the brutal legacy of slavery and Jim Crow.(Para. 27)

The gap resulted from the long-transmitted inequality between the black and the white

- Segregated schools were, and are, inferior schools; We still haven't fixed them, fifty years after Brown v. Board of Education.(Para.28)
- the inferior education they provided, then and now, helps explain the pervasive **achievement gap** between today's black and white students

Para. 29. Legalized discrimination

- What is it ?
- Be prevented from owning property. Loans...not access... be excluded from
- What is the consequence?
- The black families could not amass any meaningful wealth to bequeath to future generations
- The black families could not accumulate their wealth and to pass on enough wealth to their future generations.

Para. 29. Legalized discrimination

- That history helps explain the wealth and income gap between black and white, and the concentrated **pockets** of poverty that persist in so many of today's urban and rural communities.
- The black people were discriminated in the financial or banking field. They did not have the equal chance for improvement of their economic situation as the white people. That can explain the income difference between the black and white. That could also explain why poverty is so concentrated/found in a certain community--- most of them are black community

Para. 31-32

- They **came of age** in the late fifties and early sixties, a time when segregation was still **the law of the land** and opportunity was systematically **constricted**.
- When these black people grew up , they found segregation was still in force and the opportunity to them were quite limited due to their color

Para. 31-32 People

- **What's remarkable** is **not** how many failed in the face of discrimination, **but rather** how many men and women **overcame the odds**, how many were able **to make a way out of no way** for those like me who would come after them
- It is no surprising that most black people failed because of the difficult situation caused by the discrimination. It is something remarkable if any black men or women could achieve something in spite of the slim chances for the black and make a way for their later generation.

Para. 31-32 People

- But for all those **who scratched and clawed their way** to get a piece of the American Dream, there were many who didn't make it—those who were ultimately defeated, in one way or another, by discrimination
- Although there were some black people who struggled to make their dreams come true, there were millions of others who were defeated by discrimination

Para. 31-32 People

- **That legacy of defeat** was passed on to future generations—those young men and increasingly young women who we see standing on street corners **or languishing in our prisons**, without hope or prospects for the future.
- Obama is pointing out a truth --- those who could make it is only a minority of the black population . The majority of the black people could only repeat the miserable story of their ancestor.

Para. 31-32 People

- Even for those blacks who did make it, questions of race, and racism, continue to **define their worldview** in fundamental ways.
- Even for those people who became successful, the racial issue affected them greatly

Para. 31-32 People

- The memories of humiliation and doubt and fear have not gone away; nor has the anger and the bitterness of those years.
- Could not be expressed
- But it does find voice in the barbershop or around the kitchen table.
- The colored people release their feelings or their opinion only in such informal occasions as the barbershop or around the kitchen table

Para. 31-32 People

- At times, that anger is exploited by politicians, **to gin up votes along racial lines**, or to make up for a politician's own failings.
- Sometimes the negative feelings was used by the politician to gain more votes or to make excuse for their mistakes.

Para. 33

- The fact that so many people are surprised to hear that anger in some of Reverend Wright's sermons simply reminds us of the old truism that the **most segregated hour** in American life occurs on Sunday morning.
- Why people feel so surprised at Reverend Wright's sermons. Because of the segregation, the black and the white are usually separated in different churches, which is such a sarcasm because Christianity believes that everybody is supposed to be equal. The black and the white have no idea what they are feeling about.

- Para. 33 anger: In Obama's opinion, what consequences does Anger bring about

Para. 34-36

- Anger in the white community ?synonym?
- Resentment
- Why does anger exist in the white community?
- Not be privileged by the race
- Immigrant experience
- Dream slipping away
- Zero sum game

- Their experience is the immigrant experience—as far as they’re concerned, no one’s handed them anything, they’ve built it **from scratch** .
- From the beginning; starting with no advantage or prior preparation
- *He had no money and no rich friends, so he had to build his business **from scratch***
- ***Immigrant experience***

- They've worked hard all their lives, many times only to see their jobs shipped overseas or their pension dumped after a lifetime of labor.
- A lot of Americans lost their jobs because some of the American corporations outsourced.
- Some of American corporations suddenly went bankruptcy, so their employees lost their pension



- in an era of stagnant wages and global competition, opportunity comes to be seen as a zero sum game , in which your dreams come at my expense.
- a zero sum game: a situation where the gain of one person must be offset by the loss of another
- How do you understand zero sum game?

- So when they are told to **bus their children to a school across** town, when they hear that an African American is getting an advantage in landing a good job or a spot in a good college because of an injustice that they themselves never committed, when they're told that their fears about crime in urban neighborhoods are somehow prejudiced, resentment builds over time.
- The white people found that their rights are sacrificed when the government tried to address the racial problem. And they become increasingly angry

Para. 35

- Like the anger within the black community, these resentments aren't always expressed in polite company.
- Polite company ? Who ?
- Comparison with the black community
- When is anger expressed in the black community?
- Polite company : people you should behave politely to
- The resentment couldnot be found from the rich people

- But they have helped shape the political landscape for at least a generation.
- Shape the landscape:
- Landscape: a picture, usually extensive, representing natural inland or coastal scenery
- The resentment/ anger have great and lasting impact on the political situation.
- How ?

- Anger over welfare and affirmative action helped forge the Reagan Coalition.
- Who will support welfare and affirmative action?
- In 1960's, people found the liberalism could not solve the democratic and the foreign policy issues. People began to blame this on the welfare and affirmative action and they demanded changes, which resulted in the Republican taking on power in the next 25 years

Talk-show hosts and conservative commentators built entire careers unmasking bogus claims of racism while dismissing legitimate discussions of racial injustice and inequality as mere political correctness or reverse racism.

Talk show hosts and conservative commentators became famous through exposing so called incidents of racism which were in fact not true. They said that reasonable discussion of unfair treatment of minorities were catering to excessive sensibility to minority causes or were racism against the white

Para. 36

- so have these white resentments distracted attention from the real **culprits** of **the middle-class squeeze** —a corporate culture rife with inside dealing, questionable accounting practices, and short-term greed; a Washington dominated by lobbyists and special interests; economic policies that favor the few over the many.
- Culprit: A person who is responsible for the offense
- **squeeze** :A troubled financial situation
- Rife: abundant
- Ever since 2002 a lot of US companies were exposed of the financial scandals. Enron– accounting fraud
- Lobbyist: a group of people seeking to influence legislators on a particular issue

Para. 36

- And yet, to wish away the resentments of white Americans, to label them as misguided or even racist, without recognizing they are grounded in **legitimate** concerns— this, too, widens the racial divide, and blocks the path to understanding
- If you simply wish these resentments disappear by itself, or just simply classify the white as misguided by some wrong ideas or racist and not understand their angers are based on some reasonable concerns, that could not help solve the racial problem but only makes it worse.

Para. 37-38

- Reality --- stalemate
- Contrary to the claims of some of my critics, black and white, I have never been so naive as to believe that we can **get beyond our racial divisions in a single election cycle**, or with a single candidacy
- Solve the problem in a single election cycle?
- Then how ?
- Working together to move beyond some of our **old racial wounds....** The path of a more perfect union

Para. 39-42

- What do the African-American community need to do?

To embrace but not ..victim--- how ?

Four parallel structures

It means

Para. 39-42

- this **quintessentially** American—and yes, conservative— notion of self-help found frequent expression in Reverend Wright's sermons.
- The spirit of self-help is believed to be essential to American spirits and we often find it in R.W 's sermons

mistakes of Reverend Wright

- Parallel structures
- As if...as if... as if..
- Key words--- static, no progress. Irrevocably bound to a tragic past

- The reality is

America can change

True genius of the nation

- What do the white community need to do?

Acknowledge that...exist and that... legacybe
addressed..

By investing...

by enforcing and ensuring...

by providing

- For all Americans

Para. 43 calling

- What does he call for
- We do unto others as we would have them do unto us
- Let us be our brother's keeper
- Let us
- Let us.. Common stake
- Let our politics

Para. 44

- Choices
- We can accept...
- We can tackle race as spectacle...or in the wake of tragedy...as fodder
- We can play... talk about...make the only question
- We can pounce on some gaffe
- We can speculate on

Para.45

- What will happen if we took these choices
- Nothing can change
- Distractions---not solve the problem

Our choice

- This time we want to talk about....

The crumbling schools

education

To reject the cynicism

- This time we want to talk about in the Emergency Room

Health care

- This time we want to talk about the shuttered mills...

Job opportunity– economic recession

- This time we want to talk about the men and the women who serve together... the war

Two Wars

Para. 43-50

- Para. 43-48 calling & Choices / options
- Para. 47-50 choice / option for this time

Para.51-60

- A story and conclusion

RHETORICAL DEVICES AND FIGURES OF SPEECH

PARALLEL STRUCTURE: FOR EMPHASIS

1. So **when they are told** to bus their children to a school across town, **when they hear** that an African American is getting an advantage in landing a good job or a spot in a good college because of an injustice that they themselves never committed, **when they're told** that their fears about crime in urban neighborhoods are somehow prejudiced, resentment builds over time.(Para. 34)
2. or the African-American community, that path **means** embracing the burdens ... **It means** continuing to ... But **it also means** binding our particular ... And **it means** taking full responsibility for our own...(Para. 39)
3. **This time we want to talk about** how the lines in the emergency room are filled with whites **this time we want to talk about** the shuttered mills that once provided a decent life ...**This time we want to talk about** the men and women of every color and creed who serve together...(Para. 48-50)

TRANSFERRED EPITHET

1. Para. 27. brutal legacy of slavery
2. Para.50 the same proud flag.

METAPHOR

1. Para. 32 metaphor: scratched and clawed their way to
2. Para. 38. metaphor : racial wounds
3. Para. 39: metaphor: glass ceiling

CHECK ON UNDERSTANDING

1. Which one of the following statements is NOT correct understanding of “but we do need to remind ourselves that so many of the disparities that exist in the African-American community today can be directly traced to inequalities passed on from an earlier generation that suffered under the brutal legacy of slavery and Jim Crow”?
 - A. Obama tries to remind people of the historical context where the racial issue in the contemporary American arises .
 - B. “disparities” here refers to inequality of the black people and the white people.
 - C. “Legacy” refers to the funds or wealth the black passed on to the younger generation.
 - D. Obama points out that we need to refer back to the history to understand the racial issue.

2. Obama mentions “Legalized discrimination” in Para.29. Which of the following understanding is NOT right as for this term ?

- A. limited opportunities for the black people to hold position in the government agencies.
- B. Limited economic aids available to the black
- C. The laws that free the white people from any legal responsibilities.
- D. The institutionalized discrimination against the black people in the social system

3. According to Obama, all the following reasons contributed to the erosion of the black family in the black community except

A. Lack of public facilities

B. Loosely-enforced stipulations to ensure the life quality of the black community

C. The deficiency of the black people of learning

D. Frustration and shame that came from being unable to support the family

4. When mentioning “what’s remarkable is not how many failed in the face of discrimination, but rather how many men and women overcame the odds, how many were able to make a way out of no way for those like me who would come after them”, Obama tries to point out
- A. That it is not surprising that so many black young people failed in their struggle just considering such unfavorable social condition.
 - B. In spite of the hard social condition, there were still some black men and women who struggled hard to make their dreams come true
 - C. The struggle of the previous generations paved the way for the later generation of the black people
 - D. So the real problem for the black people was that they did not work hard enough.

5. which one of the following statements is true about the sentence “some of Reverend Wright’s sermons simply reminds us of the old truism that the most segregated hour in American life occurs on Sunday morning?”

- A. Obama is being sarcastic here by indicating that even the church is segregated , but Christianity claims that before God everyone is equal.
- B. Obama believes that in the church service on the Sunday morning a lot of white people show their anger and discrimination against the black.
- C. Obama makes it clear that it is a self-evident truth that the black people is inferior to the white people.
- D. Obama points out that the church is the only place where the segregation exists..

6. According to Obama, the following reasons contributed to the resentment of the white community except
 - A. That the white people felt that their children were sacrificed in order to achieve the social quality because the government required some of the white people to travel far to the schools located in the black community, which was unfair to these white kids.
 - B. That the white people believed that the white and the black were competing for the limited opportunities. Either they won the opportunities or the black won.
 - C. That a lot of white people believed that they did not take any advantage because of their color. Instead they were also troubled by the unemployment and financial crisis.
 - D. That the white people was told that their fear of the crime rate in their own community is sound and grounded .

7. Which of the following statements is true about the sentence “Like the anger within the black community, these resentments aren’t always expressed in polite company”?
- A. The white people tend to express their anger in polite way.
 - B. The white people tend to keep their anger to themselves.
 - C. The white people tend to throw their anger at the rich people.
 - D. Anger could not find the voice among the rich people.

8. Which one of the following statements is NOT true about the sentence “We can tackle race only as spectacle, as we did in the OJ trial,”?
- A. We can handle the race issue by making it a grand show as in the trial of the famous black football player O.J. Simpson.
 - B. Spectacle here refers to a public show. Obama is being sarcastic by using this word since it is evident that racial issue is a serious social problem and could never be a entertaining show .
 - C. Spectacle here refers to a public show. Obama point out that the racial issue becomes a most-frequently discussed issue in the public show.
 - D. Obama makes reference to the O.J. Trial to criticize the kind of opinion that considers the racial issue as entertaining.

9. What rhetorical device is used in the following sentence “This time we want to talk about the men and women of every color and creed who serve together, and fight together, and bleed together under the same proud flag”?
- A. Antithesis and metaphor
 - B. Transferred epithet and alliteration
 - C. Alliteration and metaphor
 - D. Alliteration and hyperbole

10. What rhetorical device is used in the following sentence “And occasionally it finds voice in the church on Sunday morning, in the pulpit and in the pews ”?

- A. Alliteration and metonymy
- B. Hyperbole and alliteration
- C. Metaphor and Alliteration
- D. Transferred epithet and Alliteration