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AP Lit./ 2B

Ms. Keeler

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Excellent

center (Inoculation: Poetry Response)

"Inoculation" is a poem about a slave owner who studied small pox. One day he asks his slave, Onesimis, has he ever had it. The slave then responds by saying, "Yes and No". "My mother bore me in the southern wild. She scratched my skin and I got sick, but I lived to come here, free of smallpox, as your slave." I can relate to this because just like the slave's situation was a double negative, so are African American citizens.

Even though times aren't as bad as they were during slavery or the Civil Rights Movement, black people are still paying for freedom. We are stereotyped and judged by what society and the media have worked so diligently to create. The majority of the prisons in this country are filled with black people, which to me is just the governments way of legally enslaving people. Yes many black people are guilty of the crimes that they are accused, but the legal system is not just. There have been many cases of black people receiving harsher sentences for a crime than white people. Society is almost set to trap victims of poverty and low education in the legal system. Coincidentally black people make up the majority of the poverty and low education victims.

I would never make excuses or be bias to my race because we are all created equal in God's eyes, but we are not equal in society no matter how the government tries to disguise it as if we are.

I'm going to use this as an example... with your permission.