

**Mark Kramer**

**Essay #4**

**Length: 1,200-1,500 words**

**DUE: Tuesday, November 5th**

*\*\*\* Please upload your essay as a .doc or .docx file to courseweb under "Assignments" by 6pm on Tuesday, November 5th. ALSO, bring a hard copy to class. \*\*\**

For this assignment, I would like you to begin by considering the *form* or *style* that Lars Eighner and Peggy McIntosh employ in their essays "On Dumpster Diving" and "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack." Namely, I'd like you consider the use of *an expert voice relying upon a list*. Eighner, by listing a series of items scavenged by himself and others, develops a kind of "sensibility," a taste related to dumpster diving. By specifying the values and preferences that make up his dumpster diving sensibility, he begins to account for his taste as well as dumpster diving's social and cultural significance. McIntosh uses a list to support her points regarding white privilege, but also she rattles off these items as an exploration of the many ways in which privilege might occur in everyday life.

For this assignment, imitate the form of one of these essays. Use a list – whether it's enumerated, as in McIntosh's essay, or more seamlessly developed within groupings of paragraphs as in Eighner's – to make some claim about your service experience or the context within which you volunteer. You might write on what you do specifically while volunteering (whether it's tutoring and interacting with kids, or roasting and bagging coffee, or helping patients) or about your organization's neighborhood, bus rides to and from your placement, the people you've met, an issue that affects this workplace, or some particular "sub-culture" that you're experiencing as a result of your service. Your topic may be abstract (say, on the ways in which people communicate, the way they view the services of your organization, or the influence race has on how people speak to one another) or more concrete (say, the particular excuses grade school kids will use to get out of tutoring and finishing their homework, or the experience of giving away free food at homeless shelters and food pantries, or the life and times of a one-time tutor). Give yourself license to play here – what might you say about all the ways *not* to teach a 5<sup>th</sup> grader math? Have some fun with this.

Finally, entitle this essay "On xxx," just as Eighner does, but according to your chosen topic.

*NOTE: You may need to seek out more information and do some basic research on this to expand upon your topic. Consider a variety of sources: books, television, music, movies, personal anecdotes, conversations at your volunteer site, etc. DO NOT use MLA in-text citation, though DO provide a list of sources, with full MLA citation, at the end of your essay.*