

Yi Ru

Paper #1

Prof. Qisi Zhang
356:156 (EAD II)
September 12, 2019

Readings:

- Ethan Watters's "Being WEIRD: How Culture Shapes the Mind" (pp.493-502)
- Yo-Yo Ma, "Necessary Edges: Arts, Empathy, and Education" (pp.521-535)

In "Being WEIRD: How Culture Shapes the Mind," Ethan Watters argues that much of the work done in the social sciences erroneously assumes that American minds represent certain universal values and ethics. Watters critiques that current education gives a lot of "lip service" to the idea of "cultural diversity" (424). In another essay, Yo-Yo Ma argues that "empathy," as an essential skill today in our "highly interdependent global civilization" (258), is missing in our college education. Ma suggests that it should be added to the curriculum partly because empathy even enables people to "make unexpected connections" and brings them closer to things "that would otherwise seem far away" (258). In this paper, please use specific examples from both essays and answer the following question: **How can we overcome the challenges concerning the notion of "diversity" and promote a pluralistic culture?**

Here are some thought questions to get you started on this prompt:

- How does Watters define "diversity"? How does Ma define it, if any?
- What are some challenges concerning the notion of "diversity"?
- Is the "self" independent, interdependent, or a combination of the two?
- How do cultural practices influence the way people see the world?

In your paper, please address the question by quoting specific evidence from both essays in each body paragraph. Support your argument with strong quotations and specifically show the connection between the two quotes. Write complex thesis statement and topic sentences. Follow the essay format and the outline template. Grammatically, pay special attention to *1) subject-verb agreement 2) sentence fragment, and 3) word form*.

Rough Draft: Rough drafts must be 4 pages. Please bring two hard copies to class on Monday, September 16. Also upload as an attachment to Assignments on Canvas.

Final Draft: Final drafts must be 5 pages. Bring one hard copy to class on Thursday, September 26. Please also upload as an attachment to Assignments on Canvas.

Keep in folder: Final Draft, Rough Draft with the instructor's comments, & Peer Review Sheet.

Required formatting: stapled, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-pt font size, Times New Roman, page number, and quotation in MLA format (See *Reviewing Basic Grammar*).

Rough Draft #1
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ADII sec 27
Date.

R1. diversity
↓
R2. empathy

the difference in the growing environment / people talk about diversity but no action.

diversity, multiple