

### Reading as a Writer: Analyzing Rhetorical Choices

1. bell hooks includes personal anecdotes in this selection. Use a pen or highlighter to mark all the places where she makes use of personal experiences, and discuss with your classmates the relationship you see between these personal experiences and the larger point she is making about perceptions of poverty in the United States. What do you notice about the structure of this essay? What conclusions can you draw about the structure of using personal experiences in scholarly writing?
2. In paragraphs 6, 7, and 8, hooks lays out varying cultural attitudes about the relationship between poverty and personal integrity. What do you notice about the order of the ideas in these paragraphs, and the examples she offers? Discuss the way she structures her argument here, and consider how some more recent examples from popular culture would fit with the claims she makes in this section. How do these ideas relate to the solutions she proposes in her final paragraphs?

### Writing as a Reader: Entering the Conversation of Ideas

1. hooks, like Jonathan Kozol (Chapter 12), is committed to understanding the many subtle ways we learn who "counts" in our society and who doesn't. Both writers draw on examples of school dynamics that teach students far more than what is in their textbooks. Compose an essay that places these authors in conversation about the ways school settings can teach students, perhaps inadvertently, about who "counts," by analyzing some specific school examples in each text. What connections do you see, and what can you conclude? If you like, describe and analyze some specific examples from your own classroom or campus experiences to help establish your point.
2. Both hooks and Noël Sturgeon (Chapter 16) are concerned with the ways popular culture often reinforces stereotypes, whether those stereotypes are about poverty or attitudes toward "nature." Using specific examples from current popular culture (books, television, movies, etc.), write an essay in which you draw on insights from both authors in order to analyze the way your examples reinforce common stereotypes, counteract them, or (as is often the case), do both. What do you conclude?

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### "Two Ways a Woman Can Get Hurt": Advertising and Violence

Jean Kilbourne, EdD, is an award-winning author and educator who is best known for her lively campus lectures on the effects of media images on young people. Her academic interests stem from personal experience. Although Kilbourne was a superb student when she came of age