

## WRITING THROUGH THE RHETORICAL MODES

### SECTION 1: A RHETORICAL MODES READER

#### Chapter One: The Narrative Mode

##### Process Analysis: Reading 1

Nikki Giovanni, "Campus Racism 101"

*Nikki Giovanni is a world-famous African-American poet, and her early work within the Black Arts Movement earned her the informal title of "Poet of the Black Revolution." She has taught at several colleges, including Queens College and Rutgers. In this essay, she addresses black students who attend colleges where the student body is predominantly white.*

[http://www.jstor.org.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu/stable/40250609?seq=1#page\\_scan\\_tab\\_contents](http://www.jstor.org.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu/stable/40250609?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents)

#### Questions for Reading and Discussion

- 1) Nikki Giovanni begins her essay by stating that ignorance is painful, and then gives some visual examples of the pain of ignorance. How do the examples that she states depict pain? What examples of the pain of ignorance do you see in your school, your city, and the world at large? How does ignorance cause real suffering?
- 2) In what way does Nikki Giovanni's decision to work at Virginia Tech combat ignorance? Are there things that you do in your own life to combat ignorance? Are there things that you do in your own life to model or endorse a specific idea, position, or cause? Why does Nikki Giovanni not want her reader to mix obtaining an education with being a model for a cause (educating white people) while in college?
- 3) "Campus Racism 101" is included in many American college-level essay anthologies, to be read by college students of diverse racial, ethnic, and educational backgrounds. Though this essay's intended audience is African-American students at predominantly white colleges, what might be the reasons for assigning it to non-African American students, including white students? Why might this essay be assigned to African-American students and other students of color at a college, like New York City College of Technology, that is not predominantly white?

#### Questions for Writing and Research

1) What is the “school-to-prison pipeline”? How does the school-to-prison pipeline provide background context for Nikki Giovanni’s message?

2) Write an essay in which you state your reasons for being a student at New York City College of Technology; then, similar to Giovanni, write a list of rules and their descriptions for your professors. What do you want your professors to understand about you and your colleagues as you carry out your first year at City Tech?



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