Name

Class

Date

Awesome Title Goes Here

In Colson Whitehead’s *The Intuitionist*, the central characters are Lila Mae Watson, James Fulton, Natchez, and Pompey (these characters depend upon your thesis and your text) and they belong to two main camps, the Intuitionists and the Empiricists (brief summary). The main conflict of the novel is not only between the two camps, but also the two rival elevator companies, United and Arbo. (One more sentence of summary is fine).

[Note the set-up for the thesis blueprint: While X, I think Y.]

Alan Hyde’s article “The Racial Body,” explores the idea that the “privileged eye” (page number needed) controls a person’s body, and determines status. On the other hand, Tim Libretti writes in “Verticality is Such a Risky Enterprise,” that Fulton enables the idea of both verticality and racial progress, or uplift. While Hyde’s article satisfies readers’ attention to gender and physical bodies, Libretti focusses on social organizations, and this makes a better claim on the overall meaning of how double consciousness is both social and (ironically) beneficial. In order to show this, I will first explore how Lila Mae and Fulton use the Intuitionist camp as a social organization to help those who are repressed. Lastly, I will examine how double consciousness operates to help them and their camp overcome the devious Arbo and United (method).

New: The Intuitionist camp is basically a school of how to inspect and fix elevators based on a close reading of the physical elevator by sensing precise vibrations (topic sentence for first paragraph of analysis). The most important thing to notice is that Lila Mae has the best safety record in the entire field of elevator inspectors, in either camp! The Intuitionists are not superstitious astrologers, they get the job done. But the Empiricists abide by science—empiricism is, after all, recording what happens in reality. [counter claim helps balance the two competing camps] The central scene that really provides an insight into the way that Lila Mae is socially oriented is when she interviews Marie Claire Rodgers, Fulton’s African American housemaid. From Rodgers, Lila Mae finds out that Fulton kept notebooks that held ideas that could usher in a new way of traveling up and down and thus enable skyscrapers to rise to triple their current height. [The preceding sentences set up the main scene and characters] This social awareness [key term from the thesis] carries her through the end of the novel, and eventually she is given these notebooks from Rodgers. Libretti notes that these two meetings between these two women shapes the way the plot resists the “tough male wiseguy and instead honors the repressed worker who does their job efficiently and expertly” (343). [use of peer reviewed article with brief quote that reinforces the thesis] What this means is that Rodgers carries on the work that Fulton was trying to complete before his untimely death. [this is the results or synthesis sentence] She hands the journals to Lila Mae, and therefore these three try to help society. Without actually saying so, they support the blue collar worker who doesn’t want to be CEO, but instead want to, as Lila Mae says about her inspections: “do this job as perfectly as I can” (28). [further synthesis of the writer’s ideas]