

Political Science 71H
The Politics of Identity
Professor Andrea Benjamin

This paper is Due in Class October 3, 2017

This paper should be 5 pages, double spaced (1 inch margins, **12 point** Times New Roman Font). Check the header and the footer for the font.

Paper #1 Prompt

Some identities appear fixed (race or ethnicity maybe nationality) others appear less so (language, religion, gender, sexual orientation) depending on the context. Yet, there are no firm rules for these notions of fixed or not. Given this, why are some identities strong for some people and weak for others? What internal and external factors influence this? Please use the **scholarly readings** to support your claims.

Using a character from *Homegoing* or *Half of a Yellow Sun*, please discuss identity from the perspective of that character. What can we learn about identity from this character? In what ways does he or she show us that identity is fixed? In what ways does he or she show us that identity is fluid? In what ways does his or her identity matter differently in different situations? Is his or her identity contested? If so, how?

Tips:

Please organize your paper to meet the requirements. I don't want a 4.5 page paper or a 5.5 page paper.

Please cite the scholarly readings (Barreto et. al 2008, 753) if you use a quote. If you are referencing the reading, simply note it (Barreto 2007).

This paper is meant to be more scholarly, please refrain from first person references.