

## **Midterm Paper Assignment**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this assignment is for you to create a clear and compelling argument about a course text. This essay will demand your close-reading and analytical skills, as well as your ability to create a clear and cohesive argument.

**Assignment:** Your task for this essay is to choose ONE of the works we have read thus far (Alexie, Kincaid, Díaz, or Adichie) and form an argument about its resistant or subversive potential. How radical or revolutionary is this text?

Here are some other questions to guide your thinking: What forces (societal, cultural, political, historical) does the author protest? How does he or she protest such forces? What rhetorical strategies and literary devices does the author use? Is the work actually resistant? How effective is it as a work of protest? You need not answer all of these questions, but they might help guide your thinking as you craft your argument.

You need not use any outside critical or secondary sources. This assignment asks you to focus on your *own* close-readings of the text. However, you are welcome to engage in outside research. If you do so, you must use *scholarly* sources (i.e. from JSTOR, BU Libraries, Project Muse, etc.) Please consult with me to check if your sources are appropriate.

Your paper should be 5-6 pages, Times New Roman, double-spaced, 12-pt. font, one-inch margins.

I encourage you to come to office hours or make an appointment with me to discuss your paper in advance of submission.

**Due Date:** Thursday, March 2, BEFORE CLASS (by 2 pm) by email to me ([sdraucke@bu.edu](mailto:sdraucke@bu.edu))