

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### *Huck Finn* Panel Discussion

As a concluding activity, we will discuss the topic of *Huck Finn* as a racist novel. You will be assigned one of 5 responses to this query.

1. *Huck Finn* fights racism. The book is fundamentally and completely against racism; ending racism is the biggest objective of the book.
2. *Huck Finn* is an “open wound.” It is too playful or nonchalant with a very painful topic (racism) and is much too lighthearted for such a serious issue.
3. *Huck Finn* fights racism, but not well enough. The points that Twain makes about racism are weak, easily misinterpreted, and too lighthearted to make a difference.
4. *Huck Finn* is unconsciously racist. Twain does not intend the book to be racist, but different words, events, and characters show his subconscious tendency to be racist.
5. *Huck Finn* is not really about racism. While it does touch upon race relations, they are not the main point of the story. There are bigger ideas in the story.

You are in group # \_\_\_\_\_.

With your group, brainstorm ideas to support your stance. Even if you do not personally agree with your position, you need to argue for it wholeheartedly. Come up with 3 or more examples from the book of why your stance is right, and explain how those examples indicate that.

The episode of...	Shows that...

<p><b>Questions to Challenge Other Groups' Stances</b></p> <p>Prepare a question for each of the groups to force them to defend their argument. How would you challenge them? (Hint: Look for a quote/example in the textbook and ask them to explain.) You do not need to prepare a question for your own stance.</p>	<div>1. Question for "Fights Racism" Stance:</div> <div>2. Question for "Open Wound" Stance:</div> <div>3. Question for "Not Good Enough" Stance:</div> <div>4. Question for "Unconscious Racism" Stance:</div> <div>5. Question for "Racism Not the Central Issue" Stance:</div>								
<p><b>Quotes/Examples to Support My Stance</b></p>	<p>My stance is the correct interpretation in the book, as can be seen in the following quotes/incidents from the book:</p> <table><tr><th>The Episode of ...</th><th>Shows That...</th></tr><tr><td>1.</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2.</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>3.</td><td></td></tr></table>	The Episode of ...	Shows That...	1.		2.		3.	
The Episode of ...	Shows That...								
1.									
2.									
3.									
<p><b>Possible Counterargument</b></p>	<p>Other people might say that my stance is wrong because:</p>								
<p><b>Refutation of the Counterargument</b></p>	<p>However, they would be incorrect because:</p>								
<p><b>My own thoughts, feelings, comments on racism in <i>Huck Finn</i>:</b></p>									

## Panel Presentation Guidelines

Your group's task is to support your group's statement—first with general interpretations and observations of the book. Then, tie down your interpretation with supporting quotes from the book (at least five).

You will create a digital visual aid for your panel presentation. This includes Prezi presentations, iMovie, Pic Collage, etc. You may not use a Power Point.

Your presentation must include:

- 1. Your group's stance (one of the numbered statements above)**
- 2. A few sentences or a paragraph explaining how you could interpret the book according to this statement.**
- 3. At least five quotes that prove your group's position and interpretation.**
- 4. At least two images that correspond with your presentation.**

**Remember, each group member will participate in the presentation of your stance. You must be prepared to answer any questions the audience has and defend your stance.**

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# ***Huck Finn: Panel Discussion Rubric***

## **Scoring Guide**

1 = weak   2 = okay   3 = good   4 = strong   5 = exemplary

### **Content:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Level of understanding of the subject matter
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Logical organization of information presented
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Information presented covers all subsidiary questions or subtopics
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Visual aid defends the panel's position with 5+ quotes from the book
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Before opening the discussion up to the audience, the presenter ended the panel's stance with a strong concluding statement

### **Presentation:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Panel members were adequately prepared for anticipated questions from the class
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Presenters showed an enthusiasm for their topic
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Presenters exhibited strong oral communication skills – speaking clearly, loud enough so that they could be heard and made direct eye contact with one another and the audience

### **Required Elements:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Panel members demonstrated courtesy to one another during the presentation
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Panel members responded to the audience questions in a courteous, thoughtful manner

### **Panel Discussion Members:**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_\_/50

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_