Essay #3: Persuasive Essay

In an effectively written 4-5 page argumentative essay, form an opinion and establish a specific position on the issue of assimilation and how it affects cultural and/or ethnic identity. Refer to the readings in the CP to help you define your position: “Column One; Milestone for Those of Mixed Race,” Solomon Moore; “The Lies We Tell Ourselves,” Richard Rodriguez; and “My Latino Heart,” by Mario Garcia. You may also refer to “Changing State” and “Can We All Get Along?” by Al Martinez in the CP.

Questions for developing ideas for an argumentative position:
- How does the tension between assimilation vs. limited assimilation affect defining and preserving one’s cultural/ethnic identity?
- Does living in southern California and striving for the “California dream” threaten or enhance defining a cultural/ethnic identity? In what ways?
- In what ways do bi- or multi-cultural relationships, e.g. marriages, friendships, etc., contribute to society at large? Do they affect cultural identity positively or negatively? How do they affect ethnic divisions?
- Is there a mainstream California culture? If so, how does assimilation into this culture affect cultural identity for those who do not initially and/or completely identify with it? What is lost and gained?

Develop a cohesive argument to prove your position. You must provide supporting points and evidence, including personal experience. Use the steps outlined in WWR for note taking (8 Questions, etc.), developing your ideas, and pre-writing. Begin with a draft argumentative thesis to establish your position. For evidence, refer to personal experience and observation, and you must refer to:
- At least one of the two primary essays in the CP
- And at least one additional source in the CP (listed above).

Your argument must include the following elements:
- Argumentative thesis (major claim)
- Supporting ideas (sub-claims) that relate to and develop your thesis are presented and explained
- Any essential key terms are defined
- Background and context for your position are established
- Relevant and sufficient evidence is provided to prove your thesis and persuade your audience
- The evidence is clearly connected to your supporting ideas/thesis when the link is not absolutely obvious

Refer to WWR, Chapters 2, 6 & 7 for a general overview & writerly advice regarding writing an argument. Two “Case Studies,” sample student essays, are provided in WWR, p.144-149 & 166-170. Also, refer to the Case Study, p. 114-131, for the process of how to get writing from reading.

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Requirements: Essay must be 4-5 pages, double-spaced using standard font size. All references to secondary sources must be properly cited in accordance with MLA guidelines. A "Works Cited" page must be attached listing all secondary sources cited. Also, peer-edited drafts must be attached. These requirements will be considered as part of the final grade.

**Deadlines:**
- Draft introduction & thesis: Thur., Apr. 1
- Draft+3 copies for peer editing: Thur., Apr. 1
- Final draft + peer-edited drafts: Thur., Apr. 8