

NERVOUS CONDITIONS

Identity is shaped by a number of different factors, including race, gender and class.

When reading "Nervous Conditions", it is not possible to understand the character of Tambu without considering how all these factors influence her identity. Write an essay in which you respond to the statement above.

You may agree or disagree with the statement but you must refer closely to the novel to support your view.

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Re: Identity

by [J JANSSEN](#) - 27 Apr 2017 @ 15:54

We are all shaped by our "identity". What does this mean? Simply put, what our inner self is and how people perceive us! The characteristics that define us are race, gender and class. Why should it be this way? Here's why, because we are all judged. Judged by our skin, whether we are male or female and what our socio-economical status is. Tambu went from one identity that she thought she did not want to an identity that no longer was who she grew up as.

Patriarchy was a big topic of Tambu's life. Her brother Nhamo, was a sexist young boy having grown up in the Shona culture. He believed women/girls have no purpose being educated. He then took it into his own hands to shut down Tambu's goal of becoming educated. He steals her mielies and gives them away to the children at the church. Tambu had grown the mielies to make money so that she could attend school. Here we see Nhamo's spiteful nature as he feels superior to Tambu and believes she is naive in thinking she can be anything more than a girl. All the Shona men have this view and we see this when Babamukuru takes Nhamo to the mission to be schooled. Only when Nhamo dies does Tambu get an opportunity that would educate her far more than any Shona woman living at the homestead.

Looking at a defining moment that makes Tambu resent white people is when Mr Matimba takes Tambu to sell her mielies to the white people because they would probably buy them for 6 pence a piece. Doris, a white woman is mortified that this child be forced, so she believed, to sell mielies for this man. Her husband informs her it's none of her business. The word kaffir comes up in this conversation which is so demoralizing even to this day. Mr Matimba ends up lying saying that Tambu is an orphan and then they hand him a wad of money without taking any mielies. This leaves a very sour taste in Tambu's mouth about white people. Thankfully later in the novel she has a far more pleasant experience which changes her views. As she meets some whites in the mission where she goes to school, that she says are

beautiful too. The beauty she speaks of here is not cosmetic beauty but a beauty that comes from within.

even today we are all affected by class. Money makes somethings, in this specific instance, education, more attainable. We see how Tambu sees herself before going to the mission. Her self image is very poor as she reflects on the time she left the homestead and got into babamukurus car. She sees herself as a peasant and is pleased to leave that girl behind. She believes moving to the mission, she will find a clean, well-groomed self and in turn make her a better person. A self that could not possibly live or survive at the homestead. For Tambu moving to the mission meant leaving her "poverty" class status behind and joining the "upper" class.

The three instances specifically mentioned, show how Tambu felt about herself and the things restricting her in her life. She thought that all these things defined her as a person and if they could be changed she could become something she would be proud of. societies misconceived expectations and stereotyping made Tambu feel that her identity had to be changed in order for her to become something other than and African woman, that was poverty stricken. She shakes herself into her new identity, but through her journey she realizes that it was not an immediate transformation, but a lengthy journey that perhaps meant loosing herself altogether.

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[Re: Identity](#)

by [J JANSSEN](#) - 5 May 2017 @ 18:13

We were asked to do an essay, I have done one yet have received no feedback This module and other English modules are very daunting and furthermore as our attempting to reach out for help is ignored! Feeling very despondent by the lack of help! I haven't even received my marks yet and my exam is so near!

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[Re: Identity](#)

by [R BEHARI](#) - 8 May 2017 @ 17:06

My apologies for not replying sooner. I have had many issues logging onto myUnisa.

[Reply](#) [Mark as Read](#)

[Re: Identity](#)

by [R BEHARI](#) - 8 May 2017 @ 17:14

Some points to note:

The question states that "Identity is shaped by a number of different factors, including race, gender and class." You must define these in your introduction. This is so that readers who do not understand these concepts get a definition of these. It also shows your markers that you understand these key concepts. You must also state who Tambu is and what her role in the novel is.

Try to avoid using exclamation points in your essays. This is inappropriate for a formal, academic essay.

If you get your introduction right, the rest of the essay will fall into place. You will need to refresh your introduction writing skills. I have posted various helpful resources throughout the semester on how to write essays. Review these. Most of them are videos.

Going into the exam, I would say:

- Focus on key concepts and their definitions. Use these in your essays. Learn the definitions and make key points about how these concepts apply to each of your networks.
- Learn some quotes by heart so that you can draw on them in your essay.
- Focus on getting the introduction right. It should provide enough background information on your network and describe key concepts.
- Review the Thesis Statement videos.

Do these points make sense?

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[Re: Identity](#)

by [J JANSSEN](#) - 9 May 2017 @ 10:29

Okay thank you for your feedback I will work on my introduction. How was the body and conclusion of my essay?

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[Re: Identity](#)

by [R BEHARI](#) - 12 May 2017 @ 12:24

While you are largely on the right track, focusing your introduction will help you structure your entire essay better.

"What it is," she sighed, "to have to choose between self and security."

These words are spoken by Maiguru on page 103. What do you think Maiguru means when she says this? Use your knowledge of the character to answer. Do you think Maiguru is a positive role model for Tambu?

These are common types of essays. Here is a basic overview of what each of these is:

Argumentative Essay

This is an essay that discusses a topic in order to make a point.

You will be given an issue and two options. You have to pick a stance and argue for it. The aim is to try to get the reader to think the way you do.

This type of essay needs to have reasons and be well-researched. Have a good knowledge of your set works so that you succeed in writing a good argumentative essay.

To read up more, here are some links: <https://www.kibin.com/essay-writing-blog/argumentative-essay-outline/>

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/685/05/>

<http://study.com/academy/lesson/argumentative-essay-definition-format-examples.html>

Compare and Contrast essay

A compare and contrast essay question will give you two things which you need to look at side-by-side. Point out similarities and differences and why these are important.

Here are a few links: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/comparing-and-contrasting/>

<https://www.kibin.com/essay-writing-blog/compare-and-contrast-essay-outline/>

<http://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Compare-and-Contrast-Essay>

If you have any questions, please post here.

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Re: Two common types of essays

by [T RAMCHANDER](#) - 14 Mar 2017 @ 8:52

Hi there

So I see this exam as if we have a background and sound knowledge of each the characters in both The Raisin in the Sun and Nervous Conditions we should be able to answer any question we get? I'm just trying to prepare for my exams and I wanted to know the questions on the books we choose in the assignments 1 and 2, we can still choose those books in exam paper?

- Tash

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[Re: Two common types of essays](#)

by [R BEHARI](#) - 15 Mar 2017 @ 12:16

Hi Tash,

Yes. Please prepare all sections for the exam so that you are guaranteed a good mark.

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[Re: Two common types of essays](#)

by [M SOOLIMAN](#) - 16 Mar 2017 @ 10:39

Hi

My name is Meeshka

I would also like to confirm that the Two choices we make, we will be able to still answer those two questions in the exam and not of the other two topics? This is really stressing me out!

Thank you :)

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[Re: Two common types of essays](#)

by [K BUCHANAN](#) - 17 Mar 2017 @ 12:29

Hi Meeshka.

In both the assignments and the exam we are always given a choice of what we want to answer. This is what the tutorial letter says about the exam:

The examination paper will consist of FOUR questions: a question on each of the four prescribed texts. You must answer TWO questions. In order to be sure that you are prepared for the examination, we strongly advise you to have studied all four prescribed texts.

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[Re: Two common types of essays](#)

by [T PRETORIUS](#) - 10 May 2017 @ 14:07

Hi

To confirm then we will be writing a comparative & contrast essay then for Nervous Conditions and Raisin in the Sun?

Regard

Tanya

[Reply](#) [Collapse](#) [Mark as Unread](#)

[Re: Two common types of essays](#)

by [R BEHARI](#) - 12 May 2017 @ 12:26

No. I am not sure what essays you will be getting. These are merely two common types of essays that come up in assignment and exam questions for all courses. Not just this one. I am not confirming anything. I am trying to help you by providing you with information if any of these types of essays come up in any exam you ever have to write.

Argument Essay: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-IzGy5gizKg>

Research Essay: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSkb7KZ5yw0>