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Eng 101- Composition I
Essay #2- Midterm
Prof. Dragan
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Resolving the Conflict of Living Between Two Cultures

At a certain age you start to notice the tension and how difficult it can be living between two cultures or identities. Amy Tan's "Mother Tongue" talks about the difficulties Tan's mother had while speaking non- Standard English. John Edgar Wideman's "The Night I Was Nobody" tells the experience he had when he was judged just by the color of his skin. I agree that in America today, those who live between cultures are often traumatized by being forced to live neither here nor there as these authors were.

First of all, in "Mother Tongue" Amy Tan talks about what she experienced growing up with her mom speaking non- standard English, challenges her mother had to deal with on a daily bases because her English wasn't the best. The author states, "My mother has long realized the limitations of her English as well. When I was fifteen, she used to have me call people on the phone to pretend I was she' (Tan 11). This quote shows how Tan was living between two cultures of English and Chinese; having a mom who spoke pure Chinese but try to speak fluent English to; Tan being fluent in both English and Chinese. Tan had to impersonate her mom on phone calls so the people would understand the person on the phone and can further assist them. She was forced to act exactly like her mother which meant she had to ask for information, complain and yell at people that been rude to her. Tans mother's English almost had an effect on limiting her possibilities in life as well. Growing up in an immigrant house hold Language development skills play a huge role. The language barrier can affect a child results in academic's

test. As an Asian American not many are writers or represented in American literature. They are expected to be in engineering or mathematics because of their English barrier. Tan was told that writing was her worst skill and should consider account management, she didn't take that advice and soon started writing fiction. The author states, "Apart from what any critic had to say about my writing, I knew I had succeeded where it counted when my mother finished reading my book and gave me her verdict: So easy to read" (Tan 13).this quote shows how Tan mother's way of speaking lead to both difficulties and success for Tan the writer and becoming a bestseller novelist.

Next, Is John Edgar Wideman "The Night I was Nobody" tells a time when he faces the difficulties of "racial weather" and his inability to overcome racism in America. The author states, "Wrenching ourselves from the long nightmare of racism will require collective determination, countless individual acts of will, gutsy, informed, unselfish" (Wideman 22). This quote explains how Wideman felt about racism and how it's going to continue to be a problem; it'll always exist but you as an individual have to be strong minded and be the bigger person in certain situations. Wideman used his personal experience with racism in Clovis, New Mexico to help explain outbreaks of racism in the United States. Wideman was racially profiled once he walked into the bar. The door crew didn't want to let Wideman into the bar because he had on a Malcolm X cap on and the people in the bar didn't want him to come in because of the color of his skin. The stares Wideman got by the entrance way made him very uncomfortable and infuriating. Wideman states, "The bad news about black men—that they die sooner and more violently than white men, are more ravaged by unemployment and lack of opportunity, are more exposed to drugs, disease, broken families, and police brutality, more like to go to jail than college" (Wideman 22). This quote explains how one person who lives between two culture are

often traumatized. Wideman knows what it's like growing up in a corrupt neighborhood but doesn't mean that's who he is. Being labeled just because of the color of your skin leads you into situations you obviously wouldn't want to be in but sadly expect to happen. That's exactly what happened to Wideman when he found himself in the middle of a racial weather, but him knowing he's not one of those "black men" they portray him to be; but the strong minded and well educated man he is, he took the high road and be the bigger person to walk away from the situation.

In conclusion, I agree that in America today, those who live between cultures are often traumatized by being forced to live a life that others expect them to be. Even though both Amy Tan and John Edgar Wideman had two separate incidents, both stories tie up with one common point. Living between two cultures can be difficult, but conflicts can usually be successfully resolved. Both authors used their experiences to grow and become more than what others expect them to be. No matter the differences of language, color, race or education one person shouldn't be judged or treated any different and deserves the same opportunities as anyone else. Some of the smartest and powerful people were underestimated because of the color of their skin or language skills.

(890 words)

Essay 2 -- Midterm Feedback

Grading Key:

xINTRO.

Follow Rules for Short Introductions Better

xTHESIS

Use exact thesis and place it at the end of the intro.

xS.P.

Missing / Incorrect Signal Phrase: **The author says,**

xCITE

Incorrect Cite Formatting: "-----" (Lastname 10).

You may need to work on the following area(s) of your writing:

'Major' Grammar Errors:

- ☐ Subject / verb agreement (**AGR**) ☐ Fragments (**FRAG**)
- ☐ Tense errors (**tense / verb error**)
- ☐ Word order (**wo**) / confusing sentence structure ☐ Missing words (**mw**)
- * * *
- ☐ Run-on's (**RO**) ☐ Comma splices (**CS**)
- ☐ (Weak) word choice (**wc**) / wrong word (**ww**) / awkward word choice (**awk**)
- ☐ Singular / plural errors (**s/pl**) ☐ Missing articles (**mw/art**) ☐ Spelling (**sp**)
- ☐ Essay structure: ☐ weak / missing thesis ☐ Paragraph development

Using Quotes:

- ☐ Signal phrases (he says / she says) ☐ Missing quotes from sources
- ☐ Incorrect Cite Style (Lastname 100). ☐ **MISSING CITES for quotes / paraphrases
- ☐ 'Lonely Quotes' (explain your quotes) (**This is a serious problem and must be fixed!)

- ☐ Using transition words (*first of all, furthermore, next, finally, in conclusion, etc.*)

- ☐ Other: _____

Grammar and Style:	
Argument / Development/ Use of Cites:	
Grade:	