

Task for *Black is the New White*

Role descriptors for rich assessment task

Reading position/role	Aspects of discourse: what you (stereotypically) might believe
Feminist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Society is patriarchal: that is, dominated by values that work in favour of men and maintain their hold on positions of power. • Literature (and the way that male and female characters are represented) helps spread and reinforce patriarchal values. Repeated often enough, and in enough places, patriarchal values seem natural and commonsense. • In this way, patriarchal values are oppressive for both men and women, as they might constrain what is considered 'natural behaviour' for both genders. • The role of the feminist critic is to expose the patterns of the patriarchy at work in and across texts, and to suggest alternative ways that females (and males) might be represented.
Indigenous rights advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Europeans have accepted uncritically their right to establish colonies on land already occupied by others. • The history of white settlers in colonised lands is always told from their point of view. Other voices are marginalised or silenced. • Works of literature (e.g. a play) can support this process of marginalisation or silencing through their representation of non-European characters. If they are represented at all, this is done in a stereotypical way that trivialises them, their culture and their history. • The worldview of European colonists becomes naturalised (the 'norm') so that other views are seen as strange. • Language is a major casualty in the oppression of colonised people. Thus, if such people want to 'write back' against the culture of the coloniser, they must either use the colonisers' language or invent/resurrect a language to express their experience and political position.
Theatre critic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama is used to educate, inform and entertain. • Drama tells a story through characters and action. • Drama is an imitation of life. • Drama is an imaginative re-creation of life experiences. • Drama holds up a 'mirror' to 'real life'. • Action lies at the heart of drama. • Drama can be used not just to reflect life, but also as an agent for social change.

<p>Conservative social commentator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A conservative social commentator might argue that Aboriginal people should become like all other Australians (whatever that might mean) and not expect people to change things for them. • A conservative social commentator may call for the reinstatement of an immigration policy that discriminates on the basis of race or religion. • A conservative social commentator may support a policy that requires all Australians, of whatever heritage, to assimilate into mainstream culture – meaning one shaped by 'whiteness'. • Ideas of progress and change may not be on the agenda of a conservative social commentator. • Controversial issues such as same-sex marriage, stem cell research, reconciliation with First Nations people, etc. may not be considered in a favourable light, and political support would not be forthcoming.
<p>Australian historian</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History is an evolving story that speaks to the interests of each generation. • Historians are constantly testing and corroborating evidence for its truthfulness and reliability. • From the evidence, the historian draws conclusions that can be substantiated – a case is built up. • Absolute truth may never be possible, but the aim of the historian is to try to work towards this ideal. • History is made by different historians constantly debating issues and events.