NAME

Conor Hilton

ENGL 1200:0019

DATE

**Midterm**

***Instructions***

Choose any two of the following prompts and write 400-500 words in response.

Write the number of the prompt you are responding to before typing your response. Your response should begin with a thesis statement of sorts (unless you choose Prompt #5), include specific quotes from the texts you are engaging, and demonstrate your ability to close read.

1. Continue our debate from class and make an argument about who, or what, is responsible for Clare Kendry’s death in *Passing*. Use textual evidence to support your position and be sure to define how you are using your terms at the beginning. Your response can include details that were raised during our in-class debate, but should go beyond them to new territory.
2. Read the following passage from *Passing*:

“She was caught between two allegiances, different, yet the same. Herself. Her race. Race! The thing that bound and suffocated her. Whatever steps she took, or if she took none at all, something would be crushed. A person or the race. Clare, herself, or the race. Or, it might be, all three. Nothing, she imagined, was ever more completely sardonic.” (101)

Compare and contrast Irene’s relationship to race here (and throughout *Passing*) to the views of race in one of the non-fiction essays we read.

1. What is race? Reference at least 3 different texts we have read as you offer your definition.
2. Safety and risk are important throughout *Passing.* Choose two poems that also speak to these themes and relate specific lines or phrases from those poems to a specific moment in *Passing.* Analyze how these different texts speak to each other.
3. You are setting up a reading where two or three different authors will be present to read and discuss their work. Choose which authors we have read will be there, offer an explanation for the theme or themes that will be explored and why these authors should be together. Finally, include three to five specific questions for these authors that demonstrate you are familiar with their work and show the thematic connections you are making.