

### **Assignment Three**

---

Edward Said's "States," one might say, is centrally concerned with the state of states, particularly the condition of Palestinians in exile. Both Mary Louise Pratt in "Arts of the Contact Zone" and Kenji Yoshino in "Preface" and "The New Civil Rights" are also concerned, to some degree, with the state of states, particularly our increasingly diverse nation.

**Using the ideas of all three of these authors, write a paper in which you explore the key tools needed to maintain national identity.**

How can national identities survive in a globalized culture without the anchor of geography? What strategies can the Palestinians use to cohere in exile? What makes a nation—land or identity—and how can it be preserved in the face of crises? Must nations be "imagined" in new ways? Must the various arts of the contact zone be used to maintain national identities? How can a new civil rights paradigm help Palestinians in their own struggle?

### **Steps for Success**

---

1. Another hard assignment. This time, it's because you need to work with three authors at once. Again, this is not about compare or contrast, right or wrong. Instead, I am asking to argue for tools we all can use nationally and internationally to work towards solutions to very real problems.
2. First, begin by reviewing all the essays. Look for connections between the ideas, ways in which the concepts *work together* to offer solutions to this problem.
3. As always, make note of passages that support the connections you're finding.
4. Step back a moment and decide how all these pieces fit together into a central argument. This should be the point you want to make, the contribution to a larger conversation about nations and states. This isn't an "argument" per se because you're not out to prove anything right or wrong. Instead, you're being asked to assume the authority you have as a citizen and a political agent acting in the world to offer insights culled from these readings.
5. Finally, as always, use the texts to support your assertions in each paragraph.

### **Requirements**

---

- Rough drafts must be at least 3 pages; final drafts should be 5 pages.
- Bring 3 copies of your draft to class on Jun 06.
- Use MLA citation for all quotations. Refer to the Wadsworth guide for help on MLA format.
- All drafts should be double spaced, printed, and proofread for error. Your name should appear on the first page and in the header of every page along with the page number.