

Analyzing Racial Issues in the Harlem Renaissance

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In **analyzing** you break down a topic or subject into parts so that it is easier to understand.

You use analyzing when you

- study the good moves of an outstanding athlete
- pick out a new hairstyle or go shopping for new clothes
- learn the rules for a new game or learn how to use new software

In what other situations would you use analysis?

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Cluster Question: How were issues of race addressed?

Directions: The following screens show several comments about different aspects of the Harlem Renaissance. Read each comment, and then write a short analysis of how that aspect of the Harlem Renaissance reflected racial issues. The first one has been done for you.

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Comment	
<p>One could argue that the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s and 1930s was one of the first instances in the 20th century when whites . . . collaborated with black intellectuals, social activists, educators, and artists in</p> <p><i>continued</i></p>	

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Comment	Analysis
<p>attempts to transform a largely segregated and racist American society.</p> <p>Professor Richard Powell, Associate Professor of Art and Art History, Duke University</p>	

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Comment	Analysis
<p>Out of the greater access [by blacks] to the publishing and art world would come an abandonment of the racist imagery that predominated in popular American culture and justified, by dehumanizing</p> <p><i>continued</i></p>	

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Comment	Analysis
<p>black people, the fascist social and political practices that also abounded in America . . .</p> <p>Professor Jeffrey Stewart, Professor of History, George Mason University</p>	

Answer: The Harlem Renaissance attempted to improve the image of African Americans.

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Comment	Analysis
<p>[By] disseminating positive images of African Americans as contributors to American culture, many of these Harlem Renaissance intellectuals hoped to raise the self-esteem of Black people themselves. A people with higher self-esteem would be more</p> <p><i>continued</i></p>	

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Comment	Analysis
<p>resistant to segregation and discrimination, and more willing to challenge the system . . .</p> <p>Professor Richard Powell, Associate Professor of Art and Art History, Duke University</p>	

Answer: The Harlem Renaissance attempted to raise the self-esteem of African Americans, thereby enabling them to challenge a prejudicial system.

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Comment	Analysis
<p>We have therefore in Harlem this strange mixture of reaction not only to prejudice from without but to equally potent prejudices from within. Many are the comedies and many are the tragedies which these artificial lines of demarcation have created.</p> <p><i>continued</i></p>	

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Comment	Analysis
<p>Yet with all these forces and counter forces at work, there can be seen emerging some definite and hopeful signs of racial unity.</p> <p>Walter F. White, "Color Lines," <i>Survey Graphic Magazine</i>, March 1925</p>	

Answer: The Harlem Renaissance encouraged racial unity.

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Note: As you progress through Cluster Two, you will be asked to analyze each selection for how issues of race were addressed during the Harlem Renaissance.