**Paper 2 Prompt**

**Why are all sides important?**

**Prompt:**Discuss an issue in which there are multiple perspectives, e.g., smoking on campus, living on campus, buying a car at college, choosing a particular major. Then, explain why it is important for people to understand all perspectives of the issue.

In her TED talk “The Danger of the Single Story,” ChimamandaAdichieargues that it is dangerous to only understand a single side of an issue because it limits our view and prevents us from fully understanding a situation. She gives several examples of times when she herself only understood a single side of an issue – like when she only read English books, or when she first met her houseboy who was hired to do household chores for her family.

In Chapter 4 “The Fix is in – and it is Cheap and Simple” of *Superfreakonomics*, Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner give several examples of situations in which simple, unexpected solutions solved big problems.

**Writing.** For this paper, you will follow the lead of Adichie as well as Levitt and Dubner in crafting your own argument regarding a situation in which it is important to understand all sides of an issue rather than just one. For this paper you should do the following:

1. Define the issue or situation. Explain why some people may have a limited perspective of it.
2. Discuss what two (or more) sides of the issue are; What information does your reader need to know to understand both (or all) sides? Be sure to also explain why it is important for the reader to have a complete understanding of the issue before taking a side.

**Evidence.** Unlike Paper 1, this paper is not solely about your own experience. Although you are welcome to use your personal experience as evidence, you should also seek other sources to integrate into your argument.

**Topic.** Your choices for a topic for this assignment are fairly open: you could pick an event, a country or a tradition, a person, a type of music, or anything else. Just make sure to choose a topic about which people have a limited perspective. You are encouraged to choose a situation that you are familiar with and/or have adequate knowledge of. This will allow you to speak with authority on the subject and/or seek out proper evidence to incorporate into your piece.

**Paper 2: Discussion**

**Prompt:** Discuss an issue that some people do not understand fully. Discuss why it is important to have a complete view of the issue.

Consider the following issues below. Discuss in pairs or in a group what lies beyond the surface of these issues; i.e., what other perspectives do we need to consider to get a complete understanding of the issue? The first one has been filled out for you. Use this as an example. Then, come up with three other single, superficial stories and complete them.

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| **Narrow Perspective** | **Wider Perspective** |
| **Issue #1: Same Sex Couples should have children.** | |
| Same-sex couples should not have children. Every child should have a mother and a father; two women cannot replace a father, and two men can never be like a real mother. Allowing same-sex couples to adopt children or use sperm donors will set up their children to have a less than ideal life. | What is most important is that children are loved and wanted. Same-sex couples cannot get pregnant by accident, and both adoption or artificial insemination requires time and money, so if they make the decision to have children, their children are not only wanted, but their parents most likely made sure that they can offer their children a good life.  Also, children can have male or female role models other than their biological parents – it could be another relative or a close family friend.  There is research showing that children of same-sex parents do just as well as all other children. |
| **Issue #2: Most Asian students are shy.** | |
| Most Asian students are very shy. They do not speak up much in class, and they are uncomfortable with expressing their own opinions. In addition, they often do not want to make friends with American students. |  |
| **Issue #3: Americans have no culture.** | |
| Americans have no culture. First of all, America is a very young country. Other countries have histories that go back centuries or even millennia. American history only really started in 1492, when Columbus discovered America,  In addition, most of American culture has been imported by immigrants from other places, such as Europe, Asia, or Africa – even the all-American hamburger originates in Germany! So it is not really American anyway. |  |

**Paper 2: Brainstorm**

Why is it important to understand multiple sides of an issue? Describe a specific issue about which many people have a limited perspective. Add another perspective, or the missing information that is needed to complete the whole story, and show why knowing the whole story is important.

To assist in generating ideas, complete the table below. The first two rows have been completed for you. Use them as examples. When you are finished, share your answers with a partner or a small group.

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| **Single, limited view…** | **Missing information…** | **Why is understanding the missing information important?** |
| During the mid- and late 1800s, a lot of women died of a disease known as Puerperal Fever after giving birth. Since everyone believed that doctors were infallible, the main conclusion was that the cause or the disease was connected to women – their weakness or their shame. | Dr. Ignaz Semmelweiss researched this disease and found out that the cause of the disease was found in the doctors’ behavior: they would touch dead bodies and then go on to deliver babies without washing their hands, thereby causing a bacterial infection. | By only looking at the mothers to find out what caused this disease, the unhygienic behavior of the doctors was overlooked, which caused a lot of deaths. These deaths could have been easily avoided if doctors had properly sanitized their hands. However, since doctors were viewed almost like gods, nobody even considered that the fault could be with them.  Diseases do not follow the chain of authority; therefore, it is important that we always look at all sides when we work in the field of medicine. |
| Many people pity my mother because she had to raise me by herself. They often talk about how my father probably left her, and how hard her life must be because of that. They talk about her as if she is weak and powerless. | It is true that my mother’s life is stressful: she works very hard at her job, does all of the housework by herself, and raises my brother and me all by herself. However, SHE was the one who left my father. She was not happy in the relationship, and she wanted to live her life differently. | When we want to help people, it is important that we really see who they are instead of making assumptions. My mother may be raising my brother and me by herself, but it is not because she is passive and weak, but because she is strong and powerful. She does not need pity. Misjudging her simply because she is a single mother is hurtful to her. In addition, if you only pity her, you will miss all the potential she brings to situations. |
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**Paper 2, Final Draft Rubric**

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| **Academic English 20** | **Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
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|  | **Excellent**  **90-100%** |  | **Very**  **Good**  **80-89%** |  | **Passing**  **73-79%** |  | **Needs**  **Improvement**  **60-72%** |  | **Not**  **Acceptable**  **0-59%** |

**Content and Organization**

* Includes adequate introductory information about the topic
* Includes a clear thesis that responds to the prompt appropriately
* Organizes and develops the topic/argument logically and thoughtfully
* Demonstrates understanding of the class text, connecting it to the topic
* Makes sufficient use of the class text for support
* Reflects original ideas and critical thinking
* Includes a conclusion that engages the readers
* Demonstrates progress through the drafting process

**Presentation and Language**

* Uses tenses correctly
* Uses specific verbs such as *claims, argues, suggests* as well as appropriate vocabulary
* Varies sentence structure effectively and uses cohesive devices such as pronoun reference, transitions, and parallelism appropriately
* Is well edited for grammar: few basic errors with nouns, verbs, pronouns, and prepositions
* Follows punctuation and MLA conventions, including correct use of quotation marks
* Shows improvement in grammar and punctuation during the drafting process