

Murray: On Demand Essay – ERWC Profiling Unit

Directions: You will have the class period to plan and write an essay on the topic assigned below. Before you begin writing, read the passage carefully and plan what you will say. Your essay should be as well organized and as carefully written as you can make it.

Essay Prompt

Some assert that profiling is necessary to keep people safe. The Justice Department says that to prevent "catastrophic events" like airliner attacks, law-enforcement officials and airport screeners "may consider race, ethnicity, alienage, and other relevant factors." What it comes down to is that profiling can be one of our best defenses against the alternative: catastrophe. However, others claim that profiling is discrimination and is inconsistent with America's core constitutional principles of equality and fairness. Hassan Abbas, a Professor in the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, states that profiling is often counterproductive. "Over the long term, it alienates entire communities whose cooperation is essential to the gathering of useful intelligence for crime fighting and counterterrorism."

In this unit pieces such as the film *Crash*, the debate on Arizona's immigration law, articles "Going for the Look, but risking Discrimination" and "Justices take up Affirmative Action", along with Jane Elliot's *A Class Divided* argue that discrimination was and is a contemporary issue during the time in which they were published. *To what extent do you agree or disagree that discrimination and profiling is justified? Support your claims with examples from at least two of the sources presented in class.*

Scoring Guide:

Please refer to the attached EPT rubric.