CRASH illuminates the concept that prejudice is not limited to the ignorant and the cruel and that racists are often the victims of racism. It shows the multi-level nature of prejudice. It shows that those who see themselves as free of prejudice can be cruel or violent in a given moment based on racial or ethnic bias. The film is an excellent platform for discussions of prejudice based on race or ethnicity.

1. **Which racial incident in the film do you feel may be impactful to what is recent events occurring in our society today? Explain.**
2. **What examples of racism can you find in the film that are used to advance a political agenda?**

**3. Is any character fully redeemed of his or her racism through actions that he takes in the storyline?**

**4. What do you make of the relationship between Detective Waters and his mother?**

**5. Is there any major character in this film who isn’t prejudiced in some way?**

**6. Crash contains several examples of “profiling.” Research information about how profiling comes into play in social interactions. Write a short essay response in which you show how profiling is a central problem in Crash. Give examples from the film and be sure to include groups *other than* African Americans in your choices. Conclude your essay with suggestions about how to mitigate the problems associated with profiling.**

**7. Write a personal narrative about an experience that centered on prejudice either in your town or your school that was especially ironic in the outcome. Look carefully to what may have been intended by the participants in the event and what resulted.**

* **For example, on the first day in a new class, you may have sought to find a seat far away from a fellow student who appeared Middle Eastern or Goth or Gay and then later became good friends with the individual.**
* **You may have avoided a particular restaurant in your community because of the clientele and then later discovered its charms.**

**7a. Show in your narrative what you learned as you indicate the irony of expectation and outcome.**

**8. Discuss how racism played a role in any of the incidents, such as the off-duty police officer who shot the young black man in his car.**

**9. Which character in the film best illustrates through action or dialogue the problem of Double Consciousness?**

 Double Consciousness occurs when there is a marked difference between the way a person views himself and the way he is viewed by the larger society.

As formulated by W.E.B. DuBois in his 1908 book, The Souls of Black Folk. DuBois writes:

*It is a peculiar sensation, this double-consciousness, this sense of always looking at one’s self through the eyes of others, of measuring one’s soul by the tape of a world that looks on in amused contempt and pity. One ever feels his two-ness,—an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder.*

Double Consciousness Examples:

* Teenage girls may see themselves as good students who are shopping for mascara, whereas clerks at the high-end makeup counter see the girls as probable shoplifters.
* Black students at elite colleges may see themselves as scholars, while some on the campus will see them as having been enrolled because of Affirmative Action and therefore less qualified than others.
* An unwed mother abandoned by the father of her child may see herself as a parent striving to provide a good home for her child, while another person may see her as an irresponsible and loose woman who is mooching off the welfare system.
* An immigrant working off the books may be striving to be an honorable father helping his family survive, while citizens may see him as an alien unwanted presence and a potential drain on the welfare system.

It doesn’t matter whether any set of perceptions are true or whether there is truth in both. Once an individual understands that other people perceive him in a way that is different from his self-perception, double consciousness can ensue.

**10. Define and Give examples of the following concepts (all 10 concepts listed below) from the movie, specifying the details of the scene and the characters involved.**

* **Social influence**
* **Attitudes**
* **Cognitive Dissonance**
* **Stereotype Threat**
* **In-Group Bias**
* **In-Group Favoritism**
* **Contact Hypothesis**
* **Realistic-Conflict Theory**
* **Superordinate Goal**
* **Racism**

**Reflection Paper- Write a one page paper discussing your viewpoint of the movie CRASH. In Addition, answer the following question in an essay format within your reflection paper.**

**Select 3 separate characters from 3 separate scenes in the movie and provide the following:**

1) Describe the actions of the specific character in the scene selected.

2a) Describe, based on what you saw in that specific scene, what the character was *feeling* about him/herself; 2b) how the character was *feeling* about the other characters in the scene; 2c) how the character was *feeling* about the situation in the scene. Give support for your answers

3a) Describe, based on what you saw in that specific scene, what the character was *thinking* about him/herself; 3b) what the character was *thinking* about the other character(s) in the scene; 3c) what the character was *thinking* about their social world and the situation. Give support for your answers.