"Supporting linguistic segregation is fundamentally at odds with the social justice work the Rickfords and Smitherman seek to accomplish and even contradicts their very own writing. So why would such **erudite** intellectuals back code switching?" (Young 59).

* What does the word "erudite" mean in the context of this sentence? (short answer, 1 pt)
* Explain how you can use context clues from the text to understand the meaning of this word. Be specific in explaining and provide an example to support your answer (short answer, 4 pts)

In a clearly organized paragraph, please answer the following questions:

* What is the genre of this piece of writing?
* What are some of the things that are normally included in this genre (include at least three examples)?
* Does the author ever deviate from the norms that you would expect to be present in this genre of writing?

On the first page, the author explains that the title of this piece of  writing comes from an interaction that former president Barack Obama had with a waitress in Washington DC:

"In a crowded room, over the voices of people from many different races, the waitress asks Obama if he wants the change from the twenty dollar bill he'd given her. 'Nah, we straight,' he replies" (Young 49).

* Do you think this interaction might have sounded different if it occurred in an academic environment? Explain your response.
* In a short paragraph, explain how the author uses this interaction to explain the purpose of his essay.

Refer to the following passage from the text that begins at the bottom of page 50 and ends at the top of page 51:

“Wheeler and Swords also urge teachers to ignore race when teaching and discussing code switching. Even though they write, ‘We focus our discussion and draw our examples from African American English,’ in their conclusion they advise: ‘We suggest that you refrain from referring to race when describing code-switching. It’s not about race’ (161). My first response to this blatant contradiction is: ‘Huh? What tha…?! Code switching is nothing if it ain’t about race! How can you draw on the experiences of African Americans, then render them invisible, extract their historical and contemporary racial experience from the discussion?’”

* In a short paragraph, respond to the following questions:
  + Is the author agreeing or disagreeing with the claim made by Wheeler and Swords regarding code switching?
  + What methods does the author use to signal his agreement/disagreement?

Refer to the author's conclusion on page 72:

“It’s clear that my case has been to eliminate code switching as both an ideological and pedagogical feature within literacy instruction and to replace it with code meshing. Code switching spells failure for most students—and worse, it’s covered in the residue of racism. Code meshing is a better resolution to the minority language debate because it allows minoritized people to become more effective communicators by doing what we all do best, what comes naturally: blending, merging, meshing dialects” (Young 72).

* Using passages from the text, write a summary of the argument that the author is making for code meshing instead of code switching. Then, explain how you agree or disagree with this argument.  Use at least two facts from the article that support your argument. Reference these facts specifically. Your response should show evidence of clear organization with a main idea and supporting details. Your response should be at least two paragraphs in length.