# Critical Race Theory (CRT) Prompt

CRT emerged as a movement in the 1980s, reworking theories of critical legal studies (CLS) with more focus on race.

1. both critical race theory and critical legal studies are rooted in critical theory, which argues that social problems are influenced and created more by societal structures and cultural assumptions than by individual and psychological factors
2. a central belief is that white supremacy maintains power through the law
3. other issues include segregation, relations between race, gender, and academic achievement, pedagogy, and research methodologies; also, political science, women's studies, ethnic studies, communication, sociology, and American studies. A variety of spin-off movements developed that apply critical race theory to specific groups. These include the Latino-critical, queer-critical, and Asian-critical movements
4. another field is social psychological research on unconscious bias in order to justify affirmative action; and work relying on law and economic methodology to examine structural inequality and discrimination in the workplace
5. often critical of liberalism for being incrementalist, and “status quo”
6. in interpreting American civil rights law and social progress, CRT argues white interests historically have come first
7. influenced by intersectional theory, which is that multiple aspects of one’s situatedness / life circumstances come to shape someone’s identity, and “place” in society
8. influenced by standpoint epistemology, the view that a member of a minority has an authority and ability to speak about racism that members of a majority group do not have
9. takes up a debate on essentialism vs. anti-essentialism: Do all oppressed groups share a set of needs? To what extent? What do they all have in common? What do they not have in common?
10. influenced by structural determinism: deeply embedded attitudes structure society and are unlikely to change
11. influenced by empathetic fallacy: most people do not empathize with others, especially those of other races, and are deeply embedded in their own races / cultures
12. many advocate non-white cultural nationalism / separatism: in essence, not integrating into white society
13. discusses the internalization of racism, how minority groups process definitions of them promoted by whites (double consciousness; Du Bois’ “the veil”)

Choose a topic (or topics) that you see in 1-13

Write a proposal for a research paper. In this proposal, answer the following questions:

* why is this topic particularly relevant?
* what are some of the sources you found?
* is there disagreement among the sources?
* do you feel a personal connection to this issue?
* what do you feel is the most convincing argument?