

A Prompt for an ENGL 102 Essay Assignment

In *The Color Purple*, by Alice Walker, Celie and her husband Albert, known simply as Mr. ____, have a heated exchange in which Celie reveals to him that she is leaving him to move to Memphis to start her own business. Afterwards, he retorts with the following remarks: “Look at you, you black, you pore, you ugly, you a woman. . . You nothing at all.”

Some men who have engaged in physical and mental abuse of women have been asked to attend a program on abuse. As part of the program, they will be asked to read an essay in which you persuade them not to engage in the kind of behavior that Mr. ____ displays.

Write this essay. Keep in mind that most of the men will be unfriendly or hostile to your ideas, so you must really convince them with your arguments.

Your essay will be graded in terms of content, organization, style/expression, and grammar/mechanics.

Adapted with permission from a prompt by Dr. Lena Ampadu, Associate Professor of English, Towson University