



## UNIT 4.06

# WHO CARES WHERE WE CAME FROM?

### SCHEDULE

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Reader's Theater

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Word Study

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Day 4  
Interview

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Recipe Interview and Report

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## Action News

## Who cares where we came from?

*Do you know about your family origins?*

**PAIGE REIDER:** Good morning, student viewers! This is Paige Reider reporting. The big question we're covering today is: How much do we actually know about our own family histories? And an even bigger question is: Why does this matter? Who cares? Well, in order to answer part of this question, we're investigating what average people know about their family history and what role they think it plays in their own lives. Historian Hero Dotus has been interviewing people on the street about this question with some surprising results. Dr. Dotus, you've been out in the downtown area for this past week interviewing folks. What did you find?

**DR. DOTUS:** Well, Paige, it's been really interesting. I've interviewed over a hundred people, and only half know about their family **origins**. For example, one girl could talk about her grandparents who **immigrated** from Cape Verde and the exact **location** where they **settled**. But another girl didn't even know which countries her own parents were from!

**PAIGE:** That's amazing! But I guess the big question is: How do we share information from generation to generation?

**DR. DOTUS:** The only way to know yourself is to know your own history. The events of your life and your beliefs are shaped by your parents' lives and beliefs, their parents' lives and beliefs, and ... well, you get the idea.

**PAIGE:** So, without knowing and understanding this information, we may actually lose our own identities as well as **connections** to our families and to our past.

**DR. DOTUS:** But there is also a need to understand the bigger past. Events and people shaped everything we know and do today. Think about it! Which civilizations are responsible for developing the first calendar? The first writing system? Democracy? Cars and airplanes? Coca-Cola?

**PAIGE:** But don't we have enough to worry about with the present or the world today?

**DR. DOTUS:** Knowing history and understanding the past is necessary if we want to be good citizens. History is a guide for the future!

**PAIGE:** Well, Hero, you've helped this Paige turn a page! You're a hero, Hero! But seriously, I'm going to call my mother when I get home tonight from work and ask her more questions about my family. I know we originally came from Lebanon, but I don't know much more than that. I interview people every day, and I just realized I don't know much about my own past!

**DR. DOTUS:** Good luck, Paige. It will be a wonderful journey, I'm sure!

**PAIGE:** I learned a lot today, and now I'm going to learn a lot more about myself. Thank you, Hero Dotus, for helping me understand the importance of history. Now, all you student viewers, get out there and interview your family and your classmates.

This is Paige Reider, signing off!



**Turn and Talk:** Do you know your family origins? Where does your family come from?



[wordgen.serpmedia.org/action\\_news](http://wordgen.serpmedia.org/action_news)

## Reader's Theater

## Who cares where we came from?

"You're moving?"

A group of friends are walking home at the end of the school day.

## Line

- 1  **Jesse:** Hey, Sam, do you want to come over to my house this weekend?
- 2  **Sam:** I wish I could. My family is moving to a new apartment, so my dad already told me that I have to help pack boxes this weekend.
- 3  **Leyla:** *(voice surprised)* Moving? To where? Are you still going to be at this school?
- 4  **Sam:** *(smiling, and putting his arm around Leyla)* Don't worry, my friend! The new place isn't far from here. My dad wanted us to move to a safer neighborhood, and this new **location** is on a quiet road with a basketball court at the end of the street, so he thinks it will be better for us.
- 5  **Jesse:** My parents **immigrated** to the United States so we could all be safer. They came from El Salvador because there was a war there. But I don't know much about the history. They don't really talk about it, but I'd like to know more.
- 6  **Sam:** I've lived here all my life and I can't say that I know much about my own family. I know my mother's family has **origins** in Georgia, and my father's family is from Florida. Some of my ancestors are Native American.
- 7  **Olivia:** My family came here from Cape Verde when I was little. I don't feel Cape Verdean, but my grandmother tells me I'm Cape Verdean and speaks only Kriolu to me. Really, I feel American!
- 8  **Sam:** I'd like to know what it means to be American. Maybe studying our family histories could help. I mean, didn't we all come from different places or **locations**? Except maybe my father's family; they were the original settlers!
- 9  **Leyla:** My father is from Lebanon and my mother is from Honduras. I've been to Honduras once, but I've never been to Lebanon. My father said we can't go there because it isn't safe right now.
- 10  **Jesse:** So Lebanon and El Salvador have something in common. My only **connection** to El Salvador is eating *pupusas*. They are delicious!
- 11  **Leyla:** My father makes great Lebanese food. I like *kibbe* the best! My mother says that *kibbe* is also a Honduran dish. My dad says it's because many Lebanese **immigrants settled** in Latin America. They liked the dish so much they made it their own.

*Reader's Theater continued on the next page.*

## Reader's Theater, continued

## Who cares where we came from?

- 12  **Olivia:** But why do we have to know about the places our families come from? These are just **locations!** They should forget the old country and become Americans.
- 13  **Jesse:** I can't imagine not being able to connect with my family in El Salvador.
- 14  **Leyla:** My problem is that I have to deal with two family histories. It can be really confusing. Maybe talking to my parents and grandparents will help me figure this all out.
- 15  **Sam:** Wow, I'm just moving down the street! I had no idea how much history was within me and all my friends!

 **Turn and Talk:** With a partner, discuss something that you would like to learn about your family history.

Characters' Perspectives

Who cares where we came from?

Leyla, Sam, Jesse, and Olivia

Directions: With a partner, talk about each statement and decide which ones describe Leyla's and Sam's perspectives. Find and highlight evidence from the Reader's Theater text to support your answer. Then, in your own words, write Jesse's and Olivia's perspectives.

What does **Leyla** think?



- Leyla thinks her father should visit Honduras.
- Leyla wants to study the history of Native Americans.
- Leyla wants to understand her parents' cultures.

What does **Sam** think?



- Sam wonders what the reasons were for the war in El Salvador.
- Sam wants to study his family history to understand what it means to be American.
- Sam thinks that all his friends should forget about their family histories since we all live in America.

What does **Jesse** think?




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What does **Olivia** think?




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What is **your** perspective on learning about your family's history?

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Word Study

Who cares where we came from?

A Closer Look at Our Focus Words

	location	settle	immigrate (v.) immigrant (n.)
<p>Definition</p> 	<p>(noun) a place</p>	<p>(verb) to stay, to make a place your home</p>	<p>(verb) to go to a new country to live there permanently</p> <p>(noun) a person who goes to another country to live there</p>
<p>Turn and Talk</p> 	<p>Describe one of your favorite <b>locations</b> for playing with friends. Let your partner guess the place.</p>	<p>Where would you like to <b>settle</b> when you grow up?</p>	<p>Why do so many people <b>immigrate</b> to the U.S.?</p>
<p>Choose a picture</p> 	<p>Which picture shows a good <b>location</b> to study?</p>  	<p>Which picture shows a place where people can <b>settle</b>?</p>  	<p>Choose the picture of a welcome sign for an <b>immigrant</b>.</p>  
<p>Draw something to remember</p>  <p>Draw a picture, write a word, or give yourself another way to remember each word.</p>			
<p>Other Forms of the Word</p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p>			

Word Study, continued

Who cares where we came from?

	origins	connection
<p>Definition</p> 	<p>(noun) where someone or something came from; someone's or something's roots</p>	<p>(noun) a link, an attachment</p>
<p>Turn and Talk</p> 	<p>What are some questions you have about your family <b>origins</b>?</p>	<p>How would you describe the <b>connection</b> that friends feel for each other?</p>
<p>Choose a picture</p> 	<p>Where could you go to learn more about your family <b>origins</b>?</p>  	<p>Which picture shows a <b>connection</b>?</p>  
<p>Draw something to remember</p>  <p>Draw a picture, write a word, or give yourself another way to remember each word.</p>		
<p>Other Forms of the Word</p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p>		

Word History

Did you know that there are people who study the history of other people's families? They are called **genealogists**. What a strange word! Where does it come from? Well, you could ask an **etymologist**. That is a person who studies the history and **origin** of words. The etymologist would tell you that genealogy is a word that comes from Greek. In Greek, "genea" means generation. Generations can be thought of as different levels of a family, like great-grandparents, parents, children, etc. "Logos" means knowledge. So, the genealogist gives you knowledge about generations!

## Interview

## Who cares where we came from?

Interview with Reporter and Food Writer Michele Kayal

When reporter and food writer Michele Kayal was a young girl on Long Island, she loved her Syrian grandfather's lamb kebab and the chicken liver made by her best friend's Jewish grandmother. When she began traveling around the world, she learned that food was more than simply what people ate. She told us that, like language, food reflects the history of a place as well as people's cultural identities. We interviewed Michele Kayal and asked her to explain how food explains us!



**Susana:** Why is food so important?

**Ms. Kayal:** Because it tells us a lot about who we are. My father has a Middle Eastern heritage. My mom is Irish. We celebrated both backgrounds with regional foods. We ate *kibbeh nayeh*, raw lamb with wheat and onions, for most holidays, and corned beef and cabbage on St. Patrick's Day.

**Arun:** What does food tell us about different cultures?

**Ms. Kayal:** Food tells us a lot about people: where they came from and how they've evolved. For example, I lived in Hawaii for many years, and it's amazing to see so much history and culture in one place. Hawaii is home to Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese, Koreans, and, of course, Hawaiians. You can see all these cultures come together in the supermarkets. Food is a part of everyone's history.

**Susana:** What food represents your family and their history?

**Ms. Kayal:** Hummus, more than anything else. Hummus is a paste made of chickpeas, tahini (sesame seed paste), garlic, lemon, and olive oil. My grandfather was from Syria, and my grandmother was the first child (of 11!) in her family to **settle** here instead of Syria. She only went to school through the eighth grade, but she taught me so much about family, food, and community.

**Arun:** What would you like young people to know about their own histories and food choices?

**Ms. Kayal:** Well, Susana and Arun, I'd like to tell young people like yourselves that eating properly is a sign of respect for yourself. If you come from a particular cultural heritage – Irish, African, Indian, Latino, Arab, Jewish – the foods you eat communicate your **connection** to your past and the life your parents, grandparents, and everyone before them wanted to create for you.

**Susana:** I'm hungry! Thank you very much for speaking with us, Ms. Kayal!

 **Writing:** After reading the interview with Michele Kayal, think about your favorite family food and where it comes from.

My favorite family food: \_\_\_\_\_

Where I think it comes from: \_\_\_\_\_

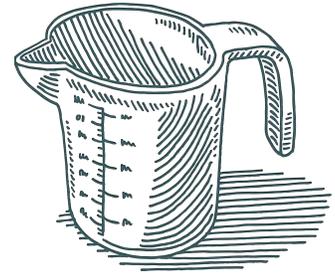
Why I like this food so much: \_\_\_\_\_

 **Homework:** Interview someone at home, at school, or in your neighborhood about their favorite family food and favorite family recipe. The interview questionnaire is on the next page, and an example of a recipe and report is on Day 7.

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**Homework (Due on Day 7)****Who cares where we came from?***Recipe Interview Questionnaire*

Introduce the topic to your interviewee. She/he could be a family member, a teacher, or a friend. Say something like: "I'd like to interview you about your favorite food and your memories of family recipes."

**What is your favorite recipe?**

## Interview Questions

1. Do you have a special family food?
  
2. Can you describe your special family food?
  
3. Did your special family food have **origins** in another country? If so, where? If not, who passed it down?
  
4. Do you have any special memories of someone cooking for you, or do you have any special memories of cooking for someone?
  
5. Can you share the recipe for your special family food?
  
6. Who created the recipe?

*Write your answers and present to the class in a report (see other side).*



## Math

## Who cares where we came from?

## Immigration: Cape Verde and the Dominican Republic

People come to the United States for many reasons. Some people come to the United States looking for a better life and opportunities for their families. Other people are escaping dangerous situations in their homelands. The **location** where **immigrants** to the United States choose to **settle** often depends on where they come from originally, or their country of **origin**. **Connections** to the country of **origin** can be very important, and it is typical for **immigrants** to move to places where there are communities of people that share their ancestry. When many people leave their homeland for different **locations** in the world, we call the global community a diaspora (dye-AS-por-ah). Today we will learn about the Dominican and Cape Verdean diasporas in the United States.



## Part A:

Cape Verde is a country off of the west coast of Africa that is made up of ten islands. There are more people in the Cape Verdean diaspora than people who actually live in Cape Verde!

Cape Verdeans live in many countries, such as Portugal, France, the Netherlands, and Italy. Here in the United States, most Cape Verdean-Americans make their home in the Boston and Cape Cod area (see map).

1. The population of the Cape Verde islands is 523,568.

Round this number to the nearest hundred thousand:

\_\_\_\_\_

2. There are about five hundred thousand members of the Cape Verdean diaspora living in the United States.

Write this number in standard form:

\_\_\_\_\_

## Part B:

The Dominican Republic is a Caribbean country that shares an island with Haiti. Just as with Cape Verde, the Dominican Republic has a large diaspora. Most Dominicans living outside of the Dominican Republic live in the United States, mainly in New York and Massachusetts.

1. The population of the Dominican Republic is 10,088,598.

Round this number to the nearest ten million:

\_\_\_\_\_

2. The population of the Dominican diaspora in the U.S. is 1,414,703.

Round this number to the nearest million:

\_\_\_\_\_

## Math, continued

## Who cares where we came from?

## Part C:

## Compare and think about data:

Fill in the boxes with the numbers to match the descriptions, and put the correct arithmetic sign in the middle. We've done the first one for you.

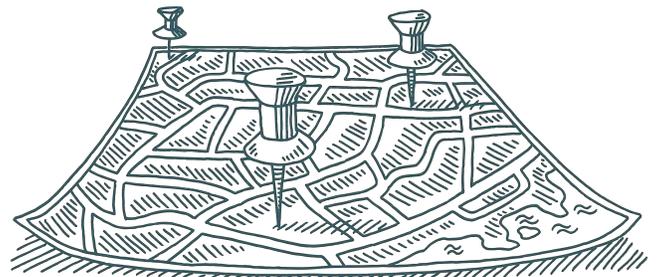
	$<$ $>$ $=$	
Number of cupcakes in the box	$12 < 14$	Number of kids coming to the party
Dominican diaspora in the U.S.		Population of the Dominican Republic
Cape Verdean diaspora in the U.S.		Population of Cape Verde

## Fill in the blank with the correct number:

1. The number of people living in the Dominican Republic is about \_\_\_\_\_ times the number of people living in Cape Verde.
2. The Dominican diaspora in the United States is about \_\_\_\_\_ times the Cape Verdean diaspora in the United States.



**Discussion question:** Considering the results above, which of the two countries of **origin** has been more affected by diaspora? Explain your thinking.



Science

Who cares where we came from?

Genetic Traits

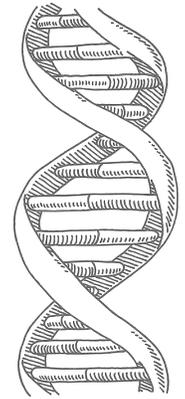
You've been learning about your family's history. Maybe some of you learned the **location** of a parent's birth or the country of **origin** of a grandparent.

**But what about your genetic history?**

Most people look at their parents and find genetic **connections**. Some people are adopted or come from families created another way, so they have to do more advanced research.

Even so, have you noticed that siblings (brothers or sisters) from the same parents can look quite different? How can that be? Physical traits show up in children partly by chance and partly based on the parents' dominant traits. Dominant means "more powerful." For example, if one parent has red hair and the other parent has black hair, most of their children would have black hair, but maybe not all! In this case, black hair is a dominant trait, and red hair is a recessive trait.

Take an inventory of your genetic traits that are listed on the chart. Compare yourself to classmates, siblings, parents, or your teacher! Do you match someone? Is there someone who is different from you in all five ways? If you see that there is more of a particular trait in your class, have a discussion about why.



your name: _____	
Hair color	<input type="checkbox"/> black <input type="checkbox"/> brown <input type="checkbox"/> red <input type="checkbox"/> blond <input type="checkbox"/> _____
Eye color	<input type="checkbox"/> brown <input type="checkbox"/> blue <input type="checkbox"/> hazel <input type="checkbox"/> _____
Freckles?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> _____
Cheek dimples?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> _____
Can you roll your tongue?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> _____

\_\_\_\_\_ and I seem to share many genetic traits. For example, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ and I seem to share few genetic traits. For example, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Sample Recipe and Report

## Who cares where we came from?

## Recipe and History of Anna's Apple Crisp

## Anna's Apple Crisp

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease the pan with shortening or butter.

Mix the crisp topping:

- 1 cup of brown sugar
- 1 cup of butter

Blend together with a fork.

Separately, combine:

- 1 cup of flour
- 1 cup of oats
- 1/2 teaspoon of salt
- 1 teaspoon of cinnamon

Add to the butter and sugar, mix, and set aside.

Prepare the filling:

- 3 cups of apples, peeled and chopped
- 1/2 cup of raisins
- 1/4 cup of sugar

Mix filling ingredients and pour into a baking dish greased with shortening or butter. Cover with crisp mix and put into the oven for 25-30 minutes. Cool for 15 minutes and serve. Apple crisp is best eaten with fresh vanilla ice cream.

Note: Aunt Donella doesn't like raisins, so leave them out if she is coming to dinner. If Leora and Rex come in from town, add some chopped walnuts.

## The History of Anna's Apple Crisp

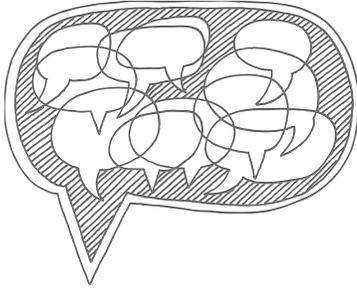
This recipe was made famous in my family by my great-aunt Anna. She loved to invite my mother and all her cousins to her farm on Sundays. Dinner was a midday meal on the farm. In the fall, almost everything on the table came right from the farm in Minnesota where my mom's family lived.

Anna picked the apples from her yard just before baking this fall dish. When my mom was a child, she remembers having fun picking apples for the crisp with her sisters. They would pretend to be pioneers **settling** the land. Once, they got so involved in their game, my mom ended up stuck in an apple tree. My aunt had to find my grandpa to get her down.

When I was a kid, Anna made apple crisp for me too. She also caught butterflies in the yard for me so I could get an "up-close" look.

Prepare and Debate

Who cares where we came from?



What should Matthijs do?

Matthijs (pronounced Matt-aiyes) is a ten-year-old boy who has just **immigrated** to the United States with his family. He is having a difficult time **settling** into life in the U.S. for a few reasons. His classmates and teacher have trouble pronouncing his name and instead call him Matt-hijis. Kids make fun of him for the fish sandwiches that he brings for lunch, calling them smelly and gross. Matthijs is proud of his country of **origin** but also wants to be accepted by his classmates. Should Matthijs change his name to something that is easier to pronounce and stop bringing fish for lunch?

Perspective	Reasons
<p><b>Yes.</b></p> <p>Matthijs needs to Americanize his name to Matt and stop eating so much fish.</p>	
<p><b>No.</b></p> <p>Matthijs needs to keep his name and family traditions because it is important to feel <b>connections</b> to his country of <b>origin</b>.</p>	

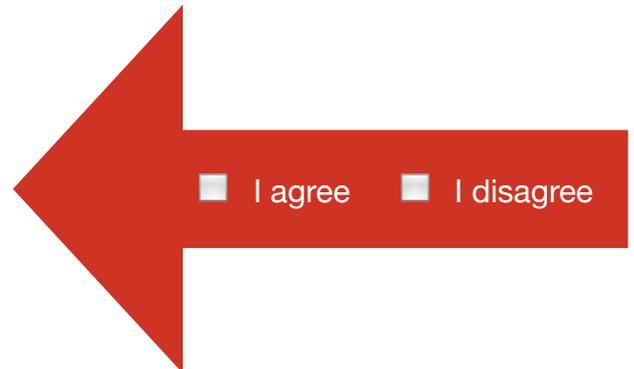
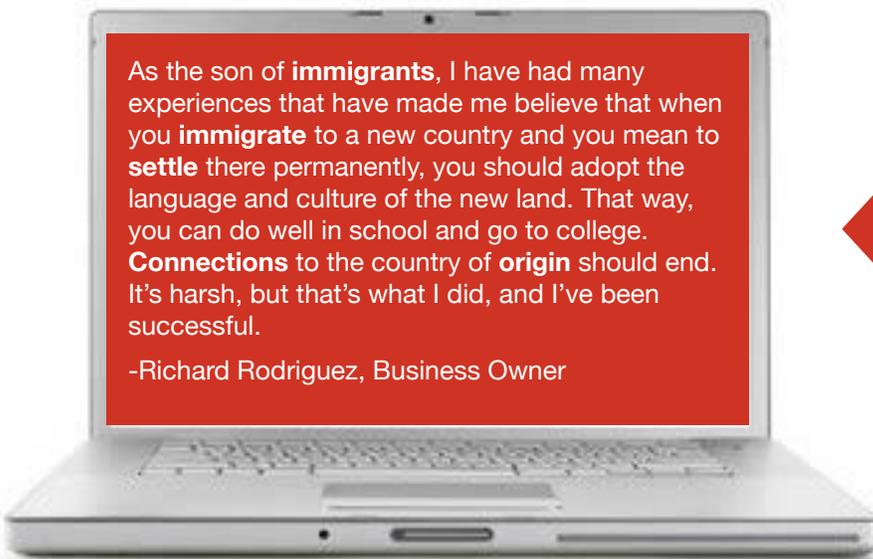
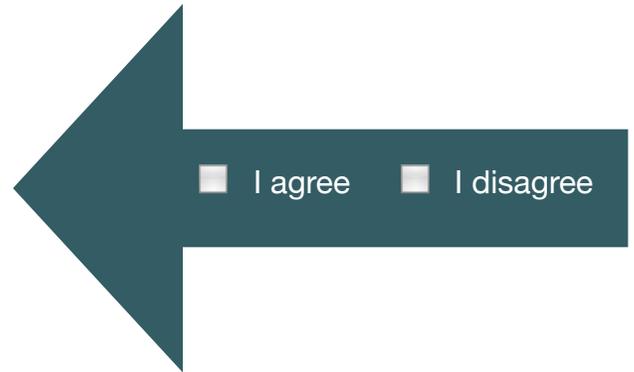
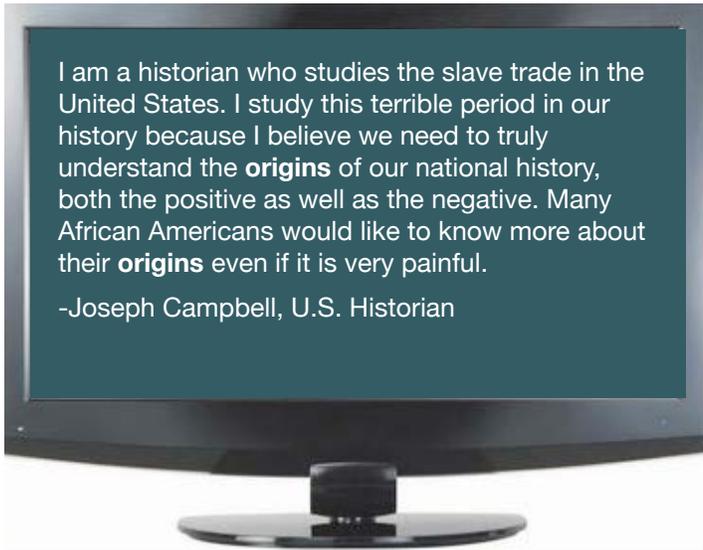
## First Draft

## Who cares where we came from?

## Considering Perspectives

Below are two different blog posts about the importance of studying family history.

Do you agree or disagree with each perspective?



First Draft, continued

Who cares where we came from?

People have many different perspectives on the importance of their family **origins**, and how much time and energy they should invest in understanding their ancestors and learning their ancestral languages. Decide what you think about this topic, being sure to explain the reasons why you think the way you do.

- Studying family origins is important.
- The past is the past! Family origins are not important.

Components

Your Draft Text:

**TOPIC SENTENCE:**  
*Introduce your opinion.*

My opinion is \_\_\_\_\_

**REASONS:**  
*Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.*

**A REASON AGAINST:**  
*Strengthen your argument by showing you have thought about both sides of the issue.*

People who disagree with me might say \_\_\_\_\_

**RESPONSE:**  
*How would you respond to the reason against?*

**CLOSING SENTENCE:**  
*Restate your opinion.*

In conclusion, \_\_\_\_\_

Try these words:

- regardless
- but
- however

