Paragraph Samples

Paragraph #1

In the novel *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, he talks about racism in a different way than most. He talks about racism in the sense of his body and how easy it is for someone to take his body away from him. “But these officers had my body, could do with that body whatever they pleased, and should I live to explain what they had done with it, this complaint would mean nothing.” (page 76) In this quote, Coates is trying to say that when he gets arrested it is the same as them taking his body because he no longer has freedom to do what he wants with his body.

Paragraph #2

The main aspect Coates is fearful of is losing his body and not having complete control over his body. Coates expresses this all throughout the book. He states, “On the outside black people controlled nothing, least of all the fate of their bodies, which could be commandeered by the police; which could be erased by guns, which were so profligate; which could be raped, beaten, jailed” (Coates 62) Black men and women who go out in public do not have the privilege of roaming free but always have there mind occupied with being careful due to this fear. They are afraid to make a mistake that will ultimately take their body. He talks about how it can be condemned at anytime, anywhere, by anyone. Throughout the whole book Coates stresses that he is always in jeopardy of losing his body and afraid not only for his own but for his son's body as well. Coates expresses this in the book, “ He had already learned the lesson he would teach me that day: that his body was in constant jeopardy. Who knows what brought him to the knowledge? The projects, a drunken stepfather, an older brother concussed by the police, a cousin pinned in the city jail. That he was outnumbered did not matter because the whole world had outnumbered him long ago, and what do numbers matter? This was a war for the possession of his body and that would be the war of his whole life.” (Coates 32) Fear has caused this to happen and it could be presented by many different people and in many different ways but in the end the black body is always at risk.