Aja Martinez’s *Writing About* Issue Journal Assignments

* Who, in Moore's view, is responsible for the sorry state of America's schools? To what extent would you agree? What reforms do you think Moore would like to see, and what changes, if any, would you recommend?
* According to Kozol, who is to blame for the current resegregation of American schools? Whom or what would you blame? What evidence have you seen of reluctance on the part of politicians, educators, and the media to talk about the segregated state of America's public schools? Would you agree that the current state of public education in the United States amounts to "resegregation" and is, in fact, evidence of "apartheid" in American society? How do the schools you attend compare with the public schools Kozol describes, both in terms of physical condition and teaching approach?
* Read in ***RA*** Wachtel's "Talking About Racism: How Our Dialogue Gets Short-Circuited," pg. 541-554. Then, define "institutional racism." Why does Wachtel believe that the term is counterproductive although the concept itself is valid?
* What is Bonilla-Silva's main point/argument? Reflect of the times you have either heard someone else use, or you yourself used abstract liberalism, naturalization of racism, biologization of culture, or minimization of racism as frames when discussing racial matters. Give one example (make your examples up if you can't recall a time you've either done this or heard this) for each frame, similar to the way Bonilla-Silva does in his essay, of how each frame is used. Be prepared to offer these examples during class discussion on Friday.
* Read Tatum's "Defining Racism:'Can We Talk?'" Next, consider Tatum's definitions of prejudice and racism. What are her definitions for these two words? Are they the same thing? Can they be used "interchangeably"? Why or why not? Next, Tatum discusses the notion that although racism is not our fault, it is our responsibility. What does this mean and how does this apply to you?