

CRMJ 325: Victimology  
Book Assignment Information Sheet & Rubric

**Course Objective:** Meets course objective #3: Appreciate the nature and scope of the problems faced by victims of crime and the issues related to the treatment of crime victims in our culture.

**Purpose:** Although we spend the semester discussing & learning about victimization experiences in a classroom setting, it can be helpful to hear from those with firsthand victimization experience—including both primary and secondary survivors. Reading *Know My Name: A Memoir* by Chanel Miller will allow you to learn about what victimization experiences from a firsthand perspective.

When working in, or adjacent to the criminal justice system, you will interact with a wide variety of people from diverse backgrounds, who will all have unique experiences (both within and beyond the criminal justice system). The purpose of this assignment is to help you better understand the experiences of crime victims, during and in the aftermath of their victimization.

## Task

### Preparation

1. Review the Book Assignment Information Sheet & Rubric. Additionally, you can view an example of the assignment [here](#) or [here](#). Please note that some aspects of the assignment may have changed from previous semesters; you will need to review the assignment & rubric to ensure you receive full credit for each portion of the assignment. *Tip: Read through all of the instructions before getting started so that you have a clear idea of how to complete the assignment. This will enable you to ask questions early on and will help you save time by focusing only on the important components of this project.*
2. Begin reading the novel. Identify passages of the text that you think are especially interesting, important, or are examples of what we have discussed in class (or are a contrast to something we have discussed in class). *Tip: Highlight, underline, or use a separate notes file or sticky notes/tabs to keep track of the text that you've identified as meaningful. You might "tag" these passages as useful to the specific sections of your assignment. For example, passages that remind you of what we discussed in class could fall into the "Classroom Connections" component of your assignment. You can find these three important components on the rubric.*

3. As you are reading the novel, think about what passages or ideas you would like to discuss with the class. *Tip: Start writing down & tracking these interesting topics or questions you'd like to discuss during the book circle. These could inform or become your discussion questions.*
4. Finish reading the novel.

### Execution

1. After you have completed reading the novel, identifying interesting or important passages, and making notes, review your notes and highlighted passages. Identify 3 or 4 specific passages or big ideas you would like to discuss with the class and 4-5 examples of ways that what we've discussed in class is different or similar to what you read in the novel. Also think about your personal response to the novel, considering what you have learned or how hearing this perspective has impacted you.
2. Take the specific passages or ideas you want to discuss and turn them into 3-4 discussion questions to start a conversation with your peers during the book circle. Type up your questions in a word document. If it makes sense with your questions, be sure to include the page numbers or retype the passage you are asking about/referencing for context.
3. Take the 4-5 examples of ways that the book is similar or different to what we've discussed in class and elaborate on them in a word document. Again, you should include specific page numbers and/or retype the passage you're referencing. You should write a few sentences of explanation about each passage.
4. Think about your personal feelings about the novel or how the information included in it made you feel. Write about 2 paragraphs reflecting about the novel and what you've learned from it.
5. Once you have completed your book circle assignment, make sure to review it before the book circle day. *Tip: Use the rubric to make sure you have adequately addressed each of the three important categories. Also, clearly label each section of your document like it is labeled in the rubric ("Discussion Questions," "Classroom Connections," "Personal Reflection.")*
  - a. Do you have **3-4 discussion questions** that explore dominant themes or integrate classroom and novel information in a way that will spark a deep classroom conversation? Did you include page numbers and/or retype the text passage you're referencing?

- b. Do you have **4-5 examples** of ways that the information you learned from the book is similar to or different from what we've discussed in class? Did you include page numbers and/or retype the text passage you're referencing? Did you write a few sentences of explanation about these examples?
  - c. Did you carefully reflect on what you've learned from the novel or how it made you feel to hear a different perspective? Did you write **2 paragraphs discussing these feelings and reflections**?
6. Submit your assignment through Canvas and bring some version with you to class to use during small group discussions. Remember that for every 24 hours that an assignment is late, points will be deducted from the final assignment grade will occur (-1.5 points).
  7. On discussion day, bring your book (pdf) and your book assignment to class with you. This is the document that has allowed you to prepare in advance what you might want to discuss or questions you might want to pose to your group. Additionally, bring some extra paper in which to make notes when your peers are sharing. This will allow you all to engage in a deeper way with the material, and it will give you an opportunity to actively listen & take notes on their ideas, so you can focus on what they are sharing, and not just on how you want to respond.

## Criteria

You will know you have completed this assignment when you have:

1. Finished reading the assigned novel.
2. Reviewed your book assignment, and it includes clearly identified sections for your "Discussion Questions," "Classroom Connections," and "Personal Reflection."
3. Removed your name from the paper or the document name. (This enables me to use anonymous grading).
4. You have submitted your Book Circle document to Canvas and made sure that **your Turnitin similarity is no greater than 20%**. Book Circle assignments with a similarity score higher than 20% may be at risk of plagiarism and cheating and could negatively impact your grade (see the Plagiarism and Cheating policy in the syllabus for more information).

### Note Regarding Class Discussion Component:

The Book Circle Discussion component of the assignment requires that students physically be in class to participate in the Book Circle Discussion. ***If you have an [authorized absence](#), on the Book Circle date, please communicate with the instructor regarding your absence prior to the Book Circle date.***

**Book Circle #1: *Know My Name: A Memoir***

Criteria	Ratings			Points
Discussion Questions	<p><b>8 to &gt;6.0 pts</b> <b>Excellent</b> Student presents thoughtful and carefully considered discussion questions (3-4) that serve to explore dominant themes or integrate classroom and novel information (these are not “yes/no” or otherwise factual questions, but instead contribute to a deeper understanding and consideration of the text or passage) (7-8 points)</p>	<p><b>6 to &gt;4.0 pts</b> <b>Average</b> Student poses questions that require some discussion, but they do not require students to explore dominant themes or integrate classroom and novel information (they are surface level questions that do not require deep or critical thinking) (5-6 points)</p>	<p><b>4 to &gt;0 pts</b> <b>Needs Work</b> Student poses questions that are answered through a summary of the text or otherwise do no illicit any deeper discussion (these are yes/no questions or other factual questions) (0-4 points)</p>	8 pts
Classroom Connections	<p><b>8 to &gt;6.0 pts</b> <b>Excellent</b> Student gives several (4-5) examples of overlap (or examples of differences) between specific text passages and classroom material/discussion; student briefly discusses how these connections/examples are similar and/or different between the text and classroom information (7-8 points)</p>	<p><b>6 to &gt;4.0 pts</b> <b>Average</b> Student vaguely references that the classroom material and text are similar or different, but does not include any specific examples from classroom material/discussion or text passages (5-6 points)</p>	<p><b>4 to &gt;0 pts</b> <b>Needs Work</b> Student fails to incorporate either classroom material or specific text passages/examples; student includes information that is not accurate or factual (0-4 points)</p>	8 pts
Personal Reflection/Response	<p><b>9 to &gt;7.0 pts</b> <b>Excellent</b> Student states clearly (within 1 or 2 paragraphs) how the text has been impactful, provides specific passages that were particularly meaningful, offers unique individual response to the novel (8-9 points)</p>	<p><b>7 to &gt;5.0 pts</b> <b>Average</b> Student offers minimal explanation as to the novel’s personal impact, references very few passages of personal significance, offers generic response to the novel (6-7 points)</p>	<p><b>5 to &gt;0 pts</b> <b>Needs Work</b> Student fails to explain how the novel has been impactful, fails to reference passages of personal significance, offers no genuine personal response to the novel (0-5 points)</p>	9 pts
Book Circle Discussion	<p><b>5 pts</b> <b>Full Marks</b> Student is present for the duration of the discussion class period and is actively engaged in the group discussion (5 points)</p>	<p><b>3 pts</b> <b>Partial Marks</b> Student is present for the duration of the discussion class period but is not actively engaged in the group discussion (3 points)</p>	<p><b>0 pts</b> <b>No Marks</b> Student is not present for the duration of the class period (0 points)</p>	5 pts

**Total Points: 30**