



## MACALESTER

**Guidelines for Writing a Reflection on *Invisible Man***  
**Macalester College Reunion, Class of 1969 - June 2019**  
**Professor [Daylanne English](#), Macalester English Department**

I will be guiding our June 2019 discussion of Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* at your 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. To help prepare for our discussion, please write a brief reflection of about 250 words (more if you would like) about your experience of reading the novel. Then please send that response to me by email, either in the body of the message or as a Word document attachment. Please send your reflection to me by Tuesday, June 4 at this address: [englishd@macalester.edu](mailto:englishd@macalester.edu).

Here are some suggestions for how to go about writing your reflection:

As you recall and reread Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* (1952), think about which aspects of the novel evoked a particular response in you—whether interest, confusion, anger, or appreciation, to mention just a few. As you begin to write your reflection, try beginning there, with your subjective response to the novel or to particular episodes in it. Then think about how the novel's artistic form, how it is written, might be contributing to that response. For example, what do you make of the namelessness of the narrator? Or what do you think the images of light and power at the beginning and end of the novel? What about the recurrent presence of music and sound? In general, how are the aesthetics of the novel connected to its meaning and to your experience of reading it?

Also think about what you have learned and taken away from the novel at different times in your life. *Invisible Man* was published in 1952, your class read it in 1965, and you are perhaps rereading it now. What about your reading experience has changed between 1965 and 2019? Did you find the novel relevant to your life or for racial, political and national realities in 1965? In what ways does *Invisible Man* remain relevant (or not) to your life and your work since you graduated from Macalester? Does it seem relevant for current racial and national realities? Finally, and most broadly, how might literature help us to understand or perhaps even change those realities?