

Malcolm X Decal
Assignment #3 – Study Guide

Below are some questions you may want to consider while listening to these recordings:

Open Mind Interview of April 23, 1961. (Audio 03 in the DVD Reader)

1. Before listening to these recordings, take a moment to look up the other panelists (in the Malcolm X Encyclopedia selections I've provided) so that you'll have a better idea of where they are coming from. You can find them by their last names: C. Eric Lincoln, George Schuyler, James Baldwin, Eric Goldman, Bayard Rustin.
2. **Malcolm claims that the Nation of Islam is *not* a political or civic group, but rather that it is a religious group (@ 6 minutes). How does Malcolm respond to the moderator's and other panelists' criticism of this position? What do you think of Malcolm's argument? Is it logical or rational? What is the role of God in the NOI's position, according to Malcolm? (e.g. @36:50)**
3. What is James Baldwin's primary disagreement with Malcolm's position and approach? What does he not want to see happen in the process of black liberation?
4. Continuing a theme from last week's recordings: How does Malcolm explain the existence of a separate Black economy in America? (@23:45 in the recording).
5. According to Malcolm, what is the problem with the "so-called" Negro 'spokesmen' or 'leaders'? What is it that they aren't willing, or capable, of communicating to the white man? (@46:30).

Bayard Rustin Debate of February 15, 1962. (Audio 04 in the DVD Reader)

1. Malcolm begins speaking, after Bayard Rustin's remarks, at around 18:40 into the recording. What do you think of Rustin?
2. How does Malcolm characterize those who advocate integration versus those who advocate separation? Again, what is the role of God in the NOI's perspective?
3. **Listen carefully to what Malcolm says about America being "doomed" (@25:30 – 30:00). Why is America doomed? How and by whom? What do you think about this idea, whether as a literal or metaphorical concept? How does it relate to Malcolm's call for separation? How does it relate to other theories that you can think of regarding an end-of-days or a road-to-nowhere?**
4. Why is America the "number one hypocrite" in the world, according to Malcolm?
5. Why must black people in America rely on God to solve the race-problem? Why can't they do it themselves or in collaboration with whites? (@32:45)