**“Black Men and Public Space”**

by Brent Staples

answer each question.

Part 1:

1. Describe the voice, tone, and mood in this essay.
2. What does Staples mean in paragraph 2 by “the ability to alter public space?”
3. What does he learn from his encounter with a white woman as recalled in paragraphs 1 and 2?
4. What is the essay’s thesis?
5. What “truths” does the author describe in paragraph 5, and how does this paragraph help him advance his thesis?
6. In paragraph 10, the author claims that “Black men trade tales like this all the time.”
7. To what kinds of tales is he referring? How does including that sentence help him accomplish his purpose?
8. Why has he forced himself “to smother the rage [he] felt at so often being taken for a criminal? (paragraph 11)

Part 2:

Compare *Black Man in a Public Space* and *Those Who Don’t.* Consider the way the two texts are structured; how does this contribute to the voice, tone, mood and development of each text?