

John H. McWhorter

Quotes

*Thinking, People, Black, Texting, Issues, Writing, Sexy, Challenges, Standards,
Insecurity, Poverty, Fashion, Vocabulary, Race, Dressing Up, Mean, Past,
Night, Honesty, Doe*

Every third person in the world is a drama queen. And crying 'victim,' especially when you're not really a victim in any real way, feels good. It feels good to cry victim if you're not one.

~John H. McWhorter

People have been warning us that language was going to the dogs ever since Latin started turning into French. Yet the dogs in question never seem to emerge yelping on the horizon.

~John H. McWhorter

Texting is very loose in its structure. No one thinks about capital letters or punctuation when one texts, but then again, do you think about those things when you talk?

~John H. McWhorter

Loving your language means a command of its vocabulary beyond the level of the everyday.

~John H. McWhorter

If you took away the color of Barack Obama's skin, nobody right now would be paying him any attention.

~John H. McWhorter

English, however, is kinky. It has a predilection for dressing up like Welsh on lonely nights.

~John H. McWhorter

Ebonics - or black English, as I prefer to call it - is one of a great many dialects of English. And so English comes in a great many varieties, and black English is one of them.

~John H. McWhorter

No longer can we measure compassion by how much we spend on poverty but how many people we help to lift out of poverty.

~John H. McWhorter

A person you excuse from any genuine challenge is a person you do not truly respect.

~John H. McWhorter

People think of black English as ungrammatical, but it bears the same relationship to standard English as contemporary Hebrew does to ancient Hebrew.

~John H. McWhorter

Frankly, Barack Obama is a standard issue leftist that you would expect of somebody with his particular experience, and he doesn't exactly hide it.

~John H. McWhorter

We must neither behave as children by resisting honesty, nor allow ourselves to be treated as children by having honesty withheld.

~John H. McWhorter

I don't think that we really know a whole lot about Barack Obama at all that you would really call distinctive.

~John H. McWhorter

Texting is fingered speech. Now we can write the way we talk.

~John H. McWhorter

The only way that residual racist feelings could affect legislation, in my opinion, is through a lack of priorities, from not doing things.

~John H. McWhorter

Racism is not dead. Definitely, there are these biases.

~John H. McWhorter

Obama is seen as very, very cool. I think a lot of people find him sexy.

~John H. McWhorter

I think even in today's America, there's a sense that there's something vaguely sexy about cigarettes.

~John H. McWhorter

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