Benjamin Franklin’s renowned text *Observations Concerning the Increase of Mankind*, published in 1755, is a crucial text to read before the students are introduced to racial theories. In this essay, Franklin comments on the growing population of the New World colonies. He breaks down the community to its components, and dwells on the ethnicities of the New World population. It is in this text that the students will start to get familiar with the ideal American-now his white identity gaining importance. In order to discuss the theme of race further, the students will read excerpts from Valerie Babb’s *Whiteness Visible*, and discuss how and why whiteness-not only in relation to blackness but also to whiteness of other visibly white immigrants- became fundamental for the American nation in the 18th century.