

Kwanzaa Symbol Classification

Symbol	Literal Meaning	Context		
		Social	Cultural	Political
1.	1.			
2.	2.			
3.	3.			
4.	4.			
5.	5.			
6.	6.			
7.	7.			
8.	8.			
9.	9.			

Nguzo saba

Swahili Term	Meaning	Swahili Term	Meaning
1. _____	_____	5. _____	_____
2. _____	_____	6. _____	_____
3. _____	_____	7. _____	_____
4. _____	_____		

Choose one of the seven Kwanzaa principles. Write a five-line “essay” explaining why you consider it to be a relevant ideal for those seeking Civil Rights in the 1960s and beyond.

Kwanzaa Symbol Classification

Answer Key

Symbol	Literal Meaning	Context		
		Social	Cultural	Political
1. Mazao	1. Crops, harvest: Reward for productive and collective labor		X	
2. Mkeka (usually woven)	2. Mat: Tradition and foundation	X	X	
3. Kinara	3. Candleholder: African heritage/past	X	X	
4. Muhindi	4. Corn: Children/future		X	
5. Mishumaa saba	5. Light, nguzo saba: Minimum set of values needed to reconstruct life according to our own image and needs	X	X	X
6. Kikombe cha umoja	6. Unity cup: Used for pouring libations	X	X	
7. Zawadi	7. Gifts: Familial love, respect, and commitment		X	
8. Bendera	8. Flag of Organization US			X
9. Nguzo Saba poster	9. Seven principles	X	X	X

Nguzo saba

Swahili Term	Meaning	Swahili Term	Meaning
1. Umoja	unity	5. Nia	purpose
2. Kujichagalia	self-determination	6. Kuumba	creativity
3. Ujima	collective work/responsibility	7. Imani	faith
4. Ujaama	cooperative economics		

Essay Rubric

Exemplary: Clearly states definition. Is succinct. Shows full comprehension of context of Civil Rights movement parallels.

Satisfactory: States definition but may have expressed errant or unrelated ideas. Shows some comprehension of context of Civil Rights movement parallels.

Emerging: Unfocused comments that lack clear relationship of principle to meaning. Evidence of parallelism to the Civil Rights movement is suggested but undeveloped.

Unsatisfactory: Does not complete assignment.