

- read the SAM [statement](#) and the U of Chicago’s faculty [statement](#)
- look for 1-2 resignation letters that you’ve read recently
- look for an apology you made to someone (via email, text, etc)

—Ask yourself:

what lines stood out to you in the U of Chicago statement, what did you make of them?

- what do you notice about the apology statements
- why are they being written
- what purpose do they serve
- what does the SAM letter say will be abolished
- what does the SAM letter state will be done (dissolve, interns)

analyze the two words in the SAM statement:

“Bob Ferguson, Washington State Attorney General, has issued an opinion that while SAM’s collection was formed under the **auspices** of serving the public good,”

“the dismantling of the collection, by serving a greater public good, should be permitted by law.”

What is the function of the word “auspices”?

analyze the words: originator & perceives:

“SAM is not the **originator** of colonial White supremacy. In fact, it **perceives** itself as working to mitigate these harms and many of SAM’s employees engage in this work with integrity. Nonetheless SAM, as an institution, has underlying structures that naturalize and reproduce colonialism, racism, anti-blackness, gender-policing, and socioeconomic disparities. We do not need more representations of diversity, equity, and inclusion from institutions that hoard wealth and resources – we need transformative actions.”

- what do these words do? what does it imply about the origins vs. impact of the institution
- what does it imply about the responsibility of institutions?
- why imagine an apology/restitution of this sort
- what does a fictional apology/letter of restitution do? what does it allow?

Write out:

- what is an apology
- what is restitution/reparations
- what is the difference (between apology & restitution)

Prompt:

—who owes you an apology (person, institution, dead, alive)

—why?

—look at the resignation letter you have & analyze its structure (who is it to, what does it say, how does it say it, what is the “tone”)

—what does it achieve? what is it missing?

—take the language/format/structure of the “resignation/apology” letter that you found

—using its structure/format: write a letter of restitution, one that does not exist, but that you believe you (or we) deserve

Prompt: write an apology letter, the one you deserve