**Audre Lorde**

“The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle The Master’s House” 1979

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| **Text** | **In My Own Words** |
| Those of us who stand outside the circle of this society's definition of acceptable women; those of us who have been [created] in the [machines] of difference; those of us who are poor, who are lesbians, who are black, who are older, know that survival is not an academic skill.  |  |
| It is learning how to stand alone, unpopular and sometimes [attacked], and how to make common cause with those other identified as outside the structures, in order to define and seek a world in which we can all [do well]. It is learning how to take our differences and make them strengths. |  |
| For the master's tools will never **dismantle** the master's house. They may allow us temporarily to beat him at his own game, but they will never enable us to bring about genuine change. |  |
| And this fact is only threatening to those Women who still define the master's house as their only source of support. |  |
| …. Simone DeBeauvoir once said: "It is in the knowledge of the genuine conditions of our lives that we must draw our strength to live and our reasons for acting."  |  |

**Important Vocabulary:**

**\*dismantle:** take apart

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| Racism and homophobia are real conditions of all our lives in this place and this time. I urge each one of us here to reach down into that deep place of knowledge inside herself and touch that terror and **loathing** of any difference that lives there.  |  |

**Important Vocabulary:**

**\*loathing**: hatred

WHAT IS THE AUTHOR SAYING?

The **main idea** of this writing is…

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