

October 16, 1945

Mr. Ralph Ellison  
306 West 141st Street  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Ellison:

We are delighted that you and Mrs. Ellison are coming to Bennington on November 1st and are definitely scheduling your speech for that evening at 7:35 p.m.

The evening lectures usually last from forty to forty-five minutes followed by a question period of half an hour. Would you be kind enough to give us the exact title of your speech so that we can announce it? Please let us know also if there is any literature that you would like to have the community read in connection with your talk.

We should be glad to have you and Mrs. Ellison stay over Thursday night in the College guest suite, and of course you would be official guests of the College while you are here. It is our custom to pay speakers a nominal fee of \$25 plus his traveling expenses.

If you will write us when you plan to arrive, we will have the College car meet you at the North Bennington railroad station.

Looking forward to your visit, we remain

Sincerely yours,

Sonia Grodka  
Secretary, Meetings Committee



306 W. 141 St.  
New York 30, N.Y.

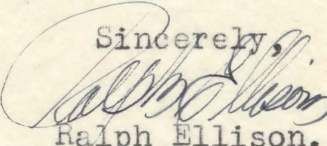
Oct 23, 1945

Dear Miss Gordka: Please pardon my delay in answering your letter; in order to avoid any ill effects I have already phoned Mr. Hyman my acceptance to pass on to you.

The title of my talk (subject to a last minute change-of emphasis, though not of essential content) will be, 'American Negro Writing, A problem of Identity'. As background material I suggest a familiarity with Gunnar Myrdal's 'An American Dilemma', the works of Richard Wright--especially Black Boy--and any other Negro writings such as are available in the Negro Caravan. The broader conceptional framework will be drawn from the works of Kenneth Burke and Erich Fromm.

You may expect my wife and I on Nov 1, on the one-thirty o'clock p.m. train. We are looking forward to Bennington with both pleasure and excitement.

Sincerely,



Ralph Ellison.

Miss Sonia Grodka  
Secretary, Meeting Committee  
Bennington College  
Bennington, Vermont.



November 5, 1945

Mr. Ralph Ellison  
306 West 141 Street  
New York 30, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Ellison:

As you will have noted from our previous correspondence, it is our custom to pay speakers a nominal fee of \$25 plus traveling expenses. I have asked our Comptroller's Office to mail you a check for \$25.00 and if you will send me a statement of your traveling expenses I shall see that you get a check covering them.

I hardly need to repeat that the entire community enjoyed your talk the other night tremendously and we hope that you will visit Bennington again some time.

Sincerely yours,

Sonia Grodka  
Secretary, Meetings Committee



306 W. 141st Street  
New York 30, N.Y.  
November 14, 1945

Miss Sonia Grodka  
Bennington College  
Bennington, Vermont

Dear Miss Grodka:

Here is an itemized statement of my traveling expenses to and from Bennington in connection with my recent lecture there:

Trainfare (roundtrip)	9.00
Meals -enroute	3.00
Cabfare (New York)	3.00
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	\$15.00

Please, in closing, allow me to say for my wife and myself that we fell quite completely in love with Bennington and would hurry back at the drop of a line. Thank you and other for your many courtesies.

Yours very sincerely,

*Ralph Ellison*  
Ralph Ellison and wife