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5. The American artist Jacob Lawrence painted the two works shown.

Discuss the historical and social themes in his work. How does the artist use formal elements to construct narrative? (10 minutes)

On L, Lawrence depicts migrating African-Americans, as he was highly concerned with issues facing African-Americans in the 20th century. His composition is triangular and establishes the figures as a group and makes them a solid and isolated mass. Their isolated singularity is representative of the alienation African-Americans felt in the 20th century. The figures in L are along diagonal axes, which emphasizes their forward motion. He uses flat colors and planes composition, which is reminiscent of synthetic Cubism.

On R, the composition uses elements of rising perspective to give a slight illusion of spatial depth that is non-existent in L. He uses the powerful vertical central axis of the banister in the center to employ the aspect Ségregation of whites and blacks in the restaurant. The people at each table seem isolated from one another in this aetetic composition, which illustrates African-American feelings of alienation.
5. The American artist Jacob Lawrence painted the two works shown. Discuss the historical and social themes in his work. How does the artist use formal elements to construct narrative? (10 minutes)

In the painting on the left, Lawrence is showing a very harsh topic of segregation, with an almost relaxed feeling to it. Although the posts down the center create a line that is obviously the boundary or separation line, you can find almost no hateful elements. The artist formally portrays the white men as much more proud or stuck up. The white men are also accommodated much better off than the black men on the other side. By using elements such as those Lawrence is telling us a story about what's going on. The painting on the left refers to a historical event, or a journey that has to be made to find a better place. Lawrence narrates this by showing the people moving, some with their heads down but all carrying their belongings with them.