

**The professor told me that my characters were too much like him, an educated and middle-class man. My characters drove cars. They were not starving. Therefore they were not authentically African.**

Why does this professor insist on giving his opinion on stories about a region that the author knows more than him about? I see two possibilities: either

1. he truly doesn't know about the conditions in Africa, or
2. he is saying this because he knows that most Americans view Africans as poor, and he thinks that the book won't sell if its view of Africans is different than the traditional stereotype.