

### **Assignment Description**

For readings due weeks 1-10 you will need to write a short response for each reading. Your total response for all readings in any given week should not exceed 600 words. So, if there are three readings assigned in a given week, you should write about 200 words per reading. Your responses should be posted as a comment in the digital drop box. A link to the drop box is on the course website.

Reading responses for week 1 readings are due on Thursday, March 31st by 1:14 pm. Reading responses for weeks 2-10 will be due every Tuesday by 1:14 p.m. Late responses will not be accepted without a doctor's note or prior approval from me. Weekly responses are worth 10 points per week.

Your task is not to write summaries of the readings. In your responses I would like to you reflect critically on the readings. A critically reading is not looking negatively at the text, rather a critical reading seeks to understand at what the author is saying (the content or the 'facts' they are giving) as well as understand why and how the author is writing the paper. For example, in your response you may reflect on the author's style, argument, theoretical framework, methods, assumptions, perspective, imagery, use of examples, and/or tone.

You may also address the following questions: Does the reading make you think differently about the topic? Are there areas of the reading you didn't understand? What are the similarities and differences between the readings for the week?

However, in order to read critically you also need to be aware of your own bias and perspective. When we read something it is difficult not to color what the author is saying with our own 'baggage' so to speak. Your task is to go beyond your own perspective and analyze the text on its own merit. So, even if you disagree with an article, try to understand the argument the author is trying to make. If you disagree with an author's position, you might focus on aspects of the author's argument that are problematic.

### **Expectations**

To receive full points your response should:

1. Include a one sentence summary of the author's main point or purpose for writing the article or book chapter,
2. Demonstrate that you have read the material closely and critically by incorporating correct and contextualized content from the reading,
3. Equally discuss each reading,
4. Focus on the author and their work not on your experience and perspective (although you may focus on a part of the reading that you find most interesting or problematic),
5. Be clear and concisely written.
6. Your responses stay within the expected word count.