

CRITICAL READINGS AND DISCUSSION ANALYSIS PAPERS

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Following each required reading, write one to one-and-one-half page (275–350 word) Critical Reading Analysis Papers giving personal reflections, responses, and most importantly, critical analysis of the readings.

While our personal beliefs and experiences certainly influence our opinions, please use empirical or other scholarly evidence to support and prove your points.

Do not simply summarize the readings. Do not simply discuss your personal experiences. Critical response papers need to include references to the text and must be cited appropriately. Examples of general questions to consider when writing your Critical Reading and Discussion Analysis Papers include:

- Consider the person(s) choice of words.
- What are the points being made, and what is the overall message?
- What are behind the points and behind the message?
- What is in the mind of the writer or the character(s) in the video? To know this, you must suspend, for a time, your reactions to the person(s). You must attempt to walk in their shoes, to perceive the world and the people around them as they would perceive—in other words, you must be able to develop empathy. From where comes their motivations, their behaviors, their actions?
- What underlying assumptions are made by the person(s) delivering the message?
- What is the person(s)' underlying philosophical/political/behavioral perspective(s)?
- What are the person(s)' social identities, and do these impact their perspective(s)? Is so, how?
- Pull out each point; analyze them from various perspectives; determine how each point fits with other points being presented; put the individual points back together into the whole, determine whether the points are consistent or contradictory; unified or disjointed, etc.
- What are the words the person(s); set off in quotations/underlining/bolding? What is the effect?
- What is the impact of the message on the receiver? What impression does the message have on you? Justify your answer.
- What are the possible repercussions of this message?
- What was one or more points that either you did not know previously or that particularly surprised you?
- Have you read or heard something like this elsewhere? Connect it to previous readings, author(s), video(s) s, or theory (ies).
- What was left out or questions you have that were not answered? **ask “critical questions”!**
- Are there any points with which you take issue or with which you disagree? Why? Fully justify your critique! Are there any outside sources you can reference to back you up? If so, refer to them.