

NR206

Critical Reflective Analysis Assignments

Critical reflection is a key component of any learning process. Throughout the semester we will ask you to complete six critical reflections. Because individual reflection styles often vary, we are offering two alternatives to complete this requirement:

1) Critical Reflection Analysis Entries

These entries should go beyond descriptive accounts and should demonstrate higher order processing of concepts and experiences. Each entry is an opportunity to critically evaluate and integrate readings, presentations, dialogues and group project experiences. These reflections will provide us with valuable feedback about your experience (and our instruction) and will allow us to assess your understanding of issues addressed in lecture. Your entries will serve as a useful roadmap for documenting and evaluating your project and will also contribute substantially to enhancing the quality of your final integrative paper.

Throughout the semester, we will provide you with a number of prompts. However, we ask that you choose topics that are of interest or that you would like to explore in more depth. The following prompts can be used to address higher level processing of experiences and ideas (more specific prompts will be posted to the NR206 webpage):

To reflect on your interests:

- What was most memorable or stimulating idea or concept expressed in this week's class, lab, reading, presentation or course-related experience? Why did you find it so stimulating?
- For you, what interesting questions remain unanswered about this week's topics?

To reflect on relevance:

- In your opinion, what was the most useful idea expressed this week? How might you make use of it?
- What idea(s) struck you as things you could or should put into practice? Why did you feel this way about the idea?

To express your attitude/opinion:

- What idea(s) expressed this week did you agree or disagree with? Why?
- What was the most persuasive or convincing argument (or counterargument) that you heard or read this week? Why did you find it so convincing?

To express critical thinking:

- What do you think was the most important point or central concept communicated during the week's presentations/readings/dialogue?

To make conceptual connections:

- What relationship did you see between this week's topics and other topics previously covered in this course?
- What ideas did you encounter this week that seemed to connect with what you are learning or have learned in other course(s)?

2) Reflective Dialogue Sessions

Dialogue is a useful method for group inquiry and individual reflection. Practiced well, dialogue can help a group to discover insights that aren't attainable individually. There will be three facilitated dialogue sessions that will provide an opportunity to reflect on course readings, guest speakers, project experiences, or other emerging topics related to the problem-solving process. While some prompts will be provided, participants are expected to come prepared to engage.

Grading criteria: There will be 3 grading rounds for your reflections. Two reflections are due at each round of grading. You may mix and match written and dialogue reflections (or propose an alternative reflection medium if these don't suit you) for a total of 6 reflections during the semester.

Grading period 1: Two reflections are due by 5:00 pm on October 9th

Grading period 2: Two reflections are due by 5:00 pm on November 6th

Grading period 3: Two reflections are due by 5:00 pm on December 4th

There are no "right" or "wrong" ideas. We will not assess your ideas but will evaluate the way and depth to which you explore and express them. While the written assignment is not intended to produce "polished papers," entries should demonstrate professionalism and thoughtfulness.

Rubric for each grading round:

15 pts	Is your reflection <i>your own thoughts</i> , not just summarizing content or parroting back what others have said?
15 pts	Does your reflection demonstrate depth of thought (originality, insight, development of personal viewpoints/philosophical ideas, synthesis, conceptual connections)?
15 pts	Have you posed and responded to questions that are personally challenging?
15 pts	Professionalism (clear, well-written, neat, on time)