

Critical Reflections 1 & 2

Due: One in first half (by Oct 18) and one in second half (by end of term)

Weight: 15%

In 2-4 pages (660-1200 words) ***critically engage in-depth with an author, idea, concept, text, or theme from a chosen week.*** These reflections are an opportunity to thoughtfully work through difficult knowledge with focused analysis and interrogation.

This is not a summarization assignment. At most 100 words should be dedicated to summary. Rather, you'll be evaluated on your ability to critically engage with the material, make connections between the course, and express your own ideas and reactions. These reflections are a way for you to puzzle through anything you might find challenging and delve into the material in more varied ways than may be possible in class.

How should this assignment look?

12 point font (any easily legible font is ok, my favourite is Calibri)

Double spaced

Name, Date, class name at top left, example:

Sam Sanchinel

Sept 20, 2021

Intro to Trans Studies

Title : specifically **not** Critical Reflection 1. Give it a title that is relevant to what you're talking about. Even add a pun!

Length: 600 - 1200 words (2 to 4 full pages). 50 words over or under is OK.

Rationale: This is a *formative* and *diagnostic* assignment. It is diagnostic because it is meant to show that you've done a reading with a close eye and are able to demonstrate that you can further interact with it in ways that show your thoughts, opinions, and feelings clearly.

This is formative, because it can be used in your thinking for the final essay assignment. The critical reflections can be jumping off points for a more in-depth interaction with texts, ideas, that would serve the basis for your assignment.

Structure and Organization: Structure this like a short essay. You want to include an introduction with a thesis that lays out what your reflection will be covering and any position you will be taking. The middle should be the bulk of your thought, and end with a conclusion.

This should be divided into paragraphs (as you would an essay), where a new paragraph designates the beginning of a new topic, thought, argument. Transition sentences also help with the organization and coherence of ideas.

Depth: You probably don't want to write on a variety of different concepts. Rather, you should choose something from a course reading and engage. By focusing on one thing (or two if you're comparing) it allows you to have a more sustained interaction with it.

Quotations: Quotations are important! But avoid stacking them one after another. What I'm more interested in is seeing your perspective shine. Too many quotations tend to take over. So be aware of what's being referenced and make sure it's relevant to your point.

Works Cited and Citations: Please cite any ideas that are not yours, and include a works cited at the end. There should be at least one thing in everyone's works cited (the text you're focusing). Any citation style is fine as long as it's consistently used. For in-text I like (Author, Page).

Discussions: I recommend using what you've already written in your discussion as a base point to write this. There's been some really wonderful ideas being shared. If you want to reference what someone else said about a text in a discussion you can, just reference it (Week 4, Suzanne).

While past discussions can be used for this, the critical reflection cannot be used for a new discussion. You can talk about the same ideas again, but not use it as a discussion post.

Collaboration: You're welcome to collaborate with a classmate (only 1 other). There have been some dialogue in the discussions that can provide a good basis for this. Reach out to your classmate if you're interested!

In this case I ask that you present a quick summary, then 1. Discuss your engagement with the text, 2. Your partner discusses their engagement, 3. Reflect with each other. Do you both agree with each other? Disagree? Further thoughts?

Final Paper: The information you write in these assignments can be part of the basis of the final paper (though not copy and pasting! The information can still be useful!)

Rubric Below!

Critical Reflections #1 & 2 Rubric

	4-5	3-4	2-3	1-2	0 – 1
Engagement /9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrates an in-depth reflection on the theories, concepts, and/or methods of a chosen reading. - Viewpoints and interpretations are insightful and well supported. - Clear, detailed examples are provided that expand on the texts, as applicable. - Assignment remains focused on the topic at hand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrates good reflection on chosen reading - Viewpoints and interpretations are supported - Examples are relevant and highlight extra-textual information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrates a mostly summarized understanding rather than a reflection - Viewpoints are a minor aspect of the reflection - Examples only highlight what is said in the text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrates a lack of engagement with the text - Viewpoints are either irrelevant to the topic or are cursory - Little to no reflection on key ideas concepts, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No engagement provided about chosen topic. - Entirely summarized - No viewpoint provided
Organization and Focus /2				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Writing is clear, concise, and well organized - Reflection is logically organized and ideas are easily followed - Uses effective, smooth, and logical transitions. - A clear thesis is presented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of clarity limits understanding of what is written. - There is no apparent organization to the Reflection - Ideas are difficult to follow - There are no or poor transitions. - An unclear or no thesis is presented
Summary (2)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary covers the topic at hand. - Mostly written in your own words with references - Not too long and not too short. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Little to no summary is provided - Summary does not provide adequate information about the text - Summary is not written in your words (too many quotes stacked one after another)
Conventions (2)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Few punctuation or mechanical errors - Tone is clear, consistent and appropriate for intended audience - Guidelines respected, including citations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Too many punctuation and/or mechanical errors.- Ideas are hard to follow because of writing problems - No works cited or citations

