

Description This is an open-ended informal essay assignment, in which you can write about what interests you from our course content. Using material we have read/consumed and discussed in class this week (Monday - Friday), synthesize ideas into a larger written piece. Amazingly, writing actually helps us develop our thoughts (even if we're not sure what those thoughts are when we sit down to write!), so this exercise is meant to be a continuation of the learning process (as opposed to an assignment where I am quizzing you on your knowledge).

The intention of this assignment is for you to flex your writing muscles by taking an hour or two on Friday afternoon/evening to piece together some thoughts from the week. If you have engaged with the readings and classroom discussions earlier in the week, it shouldn't take much more time than that. I'm being intentionally vague in the instructions, to give you creative license to write in a way that most aids your learning. Regardless of what you write, you should include informal or formal citations to texts and to your classmates for their ideas.

No additional research needs to be conducted outside of our regularly assigned course readings, although you are welcome to do so if you'd like (just be sure to cite those things, as always).

Learning Outcomes Completion of this assignment will contribute to your ability to fulfill the following learning outcomes:
All learning outcomes (1-9)

Criteria for Success Assignments are graded on a Satisfactory/Not scale, which I hope encourages you to marinate in the learning rather than being overly concerned by grades. I will ask for further revisions of any assignment that receives a grade of Not Satisfactory (*NS*). Assignments that meet the following criteria will be graded Satisfactory (*S*):

- Submission is a minimum of 400 words (there is no maximum)
- Reflection Essay is typed in a type-setting program such as word or pages
- Reflection is on-topic for ideas covered in the previous weeks readings
- Reflection demonstrates learning or understanding of a key topic, OR reflection connects ideas from the weeks readings to previously discussed topics, OR reflection raises key questions that you'd like to address moving forward.
- Submission gives informal or formal attribution to where ideas come from (readings, a fellow student during in-class discussion, etc.)
- Submission is written and organized in a way which is not overly distracting. In other words, it doesn't need to be heavily edited, but it should be readable.