

ES 237* SPRING 2020*ANGELL
Guidelines for Course Reflections and Connections Essays

- At the top of your essay put the full citation of the article you are choosing to write on, using the citation style used in that paper.

First you will need to summarize the paper you will be focusing on.

- Write an informative overview or summary of the paper.
- Condense the content of the work by highlighting its main points and key supporting points.
- Summarize the paper in your own words so that the reader gets a general sense of the important aspects of the original work and its unique contribution. (You might imagine they read it at some point in the past but don't really remember it.)
- Also, keep the summary part of your essay objective and factual. In the first part of your essay, do not include your personal reaction to the work; your subjective impression will form the basis of the second part of your paper.

Second you will need to make a good number of specific connections and react to the paper. Please include good detail here!

- How is the paper you are focusing on related to ideas and concerns discussed in our course or in other courses? If you are citing specific readings other than the one you are writing on, please use the same consistent citation style.
- How is the work related to problems in our present-day world?
- Make connections between the subject and your own experience. How is the material related to your life, experiences, and ideas?
- Did the work increase your understanding of a particular issue? Did it change your perspective in any way?
- Evaluate the work to some extent. Do you think the points it makes are important? Why or why not? Would you have been interested if the paper had included a different perspective or integrated additional material? In other words do you think there is something significant missing from the paper that makes it incomplete? Were there parts that were difficult to understand? Could they have been more effective at communicating certain ideas?

Finally you should wrap up your essay.

- In a final paragraph you should summarize your main ideas and then also indicate here whether or not you would recommend the work to others, and why. Did you find value in reading it yourself?

Format

- Hard copy-i.e., Paper copy!
- Single spaced
- 2 sided (print back to back or duplexed)
- Roughly 1,500 words

Your paper will be evaluated based on the degree to which it addresses the guidelines above.