

<b>Critical Theory Reflective Blog Assignment</b>	
<b>Purpose</b>	<p><b>Critical Theory Reflective Blog Assignment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will practice and explore principles of literary interpretation by reflecting on a reading and answering two specific critical theory questions.</li> <li>• Students will present their interpretations and reflections in a clear, precise blog entry posted for other class members.</li> </ul>
<b>Guidelines</b>	<p><b>Guidelines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep each question response to 300-500 words.</li> <li>• Consider other English 251 students as audience.</li> <li>• Refer to Critical Theory Essentials for sample questions.</li> </ul>
<b>Steps to an Effective Blog</b>	<p><b>Steps to an Effective Critical Theory Reflective Blog</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Select a literary text from this course to use (you may use the same text for both questions, or you may use a different text for each question).</li> <li>2. Identify TWO critical theory questions to ask about the text.</li> <li>3. Write a focused free write entry answering each question by using examples from the text.</li> <li>4. Revise the blog entries for an audience of other 251 class members.</li> <li>5. Post the entries on the class blog.</li> </ol>
<b>Reflective Blog</b>	<p><b>Reflective Blog</b></p> <p>A reflective blog becomes the vehicle for both critical questioning and a conversational style. Writing reflectively means writing a first-person, introspective response to a classroom discussion, activity, or reading assignment. A reflective blog entry records the discoveries, thoughts, impressions, and questions, that occur while you read or immediately afterward. Reflective journals can help you resolve your feelings with your experiences, explore the feelings of other people, acknowledge your discomfort with ethical dilemmas, define your professional values, lead to change in your current behavior by facilitating future actions, lead to self-discovery, and lead to professional growth. A reflective blog can provide students opportunities to synthesize theory and practice, apply relevant research and literature, and raise questions and concerns for further study. As Reynolds points out, ‘a [blog] ‘provides students a guided opportunity to ‘think aloud’ on paper, reflecting on their own perceptions or analysis of the situations they encounter.’”</p> <p>These blog entries may also develop into T-Analysis assignments or a critical analysis essay assignment.</p>

<b>Focused Free Write</b>	<b>Focused Free Write</b> In your reflective blog, you will employ a technique called <i>focused free writing</i> . When you free write, you put your pen to paper and write nonstop for a set period of time. (If you compose at the computer and can touch-type, consider turning off the screen so that you can concentrate entirely on ideas without worrying about the appearance of the text.) You think aloud on paper without being concerned about spelling, organization, or grammar, and write as fast as you can. If your mind suddenly dries up, you just write <i>relax</i> , or a key word, over and over again until a new thought springs into your mind. The difference between the two kinds of writing is that in regular free writing, your mind can wander freely from topic to topic, but in <i>focused free writing</i> , you keep your entire entry focused on the assigned text, question, or problem. The purpose of <i>focused free writing</i> is to explore your responses to the question as fully as possible within the set time period.
<b>Reflective Blog Entry Length</b>	<b>Reflective Blog Entry Length</b> In general, reflective blog entry should be the result of 20-30 minutes of concentrated thinking and writing for <i>each</i> critical theory question. A skilled free writer can easily write two or more pages of single-spaced prose (normal-sized handwriting, narrow rules, normal margins) in 20 minutes. For this course, however, one full page of typed prose is a reasonable goal for 20 minutes of free writing. We consider one entry to be one page of typed prose, but we hope for somewhat more. When free writing, set your watch for 20 minutes and typed nonstop. If you write a page or more of prose in that time, you have completed an entry.
<b>Presentation</b>	<b>A Good Idea Deserves a Good Presentation</b> Writers respect their readers enough to eliminate any errors, ambiguities, or inconsistencies in their writing. Writers also attempt to appeal to their readers intellectually, personally, and visually. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use personal, active voice.</li><li>• Employ clear, simple, direct prose.</li><li>• Demonstrate accurate mechanical control.</li><li>• Adhere to effective, professional format.</li><li>• Edit and proofread again, again, and again.</li></ul>
<b>Resources</b>	<b>Resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Critical Theory Essentials Documents</li></ul>