

Discussion Forum

We will regularly use the discussion forum on Canvas to think with each other about readings and topics from the course. You are required to post at least once to each discussion forum. For example, the forum for Day 2 is live on Canvas. You must offer at least one post there. Posts should be at least 150 words with correct grammar and spelling. Posts are graded with a ✓-, ✓, or ✓+.

There are three kinds of posts. Here they are, with features that make them good:

- 1) Responses to Prof Sinykin's prompt
 - a. Demonstrate that you have reflected on and understood the prompt and/or the text at hand.
 - b. Have a clear purpose: for example, to persuade, provoke conversation, or raise a thoughtful question.
 - c. Go beyond simply answering the prompt. Attempt to stimulate further thought and discussion.
- 2) Questions
 - a. Make your questions open-ended, not answerable with fact or by direct reference to a text. Make sure your question doesn't rely on information the rest of the class doesn't have, OR give the class enough information and background to be able to engage the question. Make sure the question is answerable to start with, i.e., is not vague and does not rely on facts or assumptions not addressable within the confines of our class conversation.
 - b. If relevant, make reference to the text with quotes or page numbers: direct the class to a relevant passage
 - c. It's not the worst idea to make sure you have some thoughts about how to answer your questions before sending them on to your colleagues. But sometimes you are just really stumped and need to work through this question with your classmates. That's okay too.
 - d. Ask yourself, of the text: what are we being persuaded of? What are the stakes, what matters? What's clear, what's not? How does the text show you? Is what's on the surface the same as what's in the depths? What doesn't seem to fit? Let these questions help generate *your* question.¹
- 3) Responses to a peer
 - a. Demonstrate that you have reflected on and understood the post you are responding to.
 - b. Have a clear purpose: for example, to persuade, provoke conversation, or raise a thoughtful question.
 - c. Go beyond simply answering the prompt. Attempt to stimulate further thought and discussion, thereby moving the conversation forward.

¹ Published by Kyla Wazana Tompkins in *Avidly* September 13, 2016