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Reading Response: Genuine Inquiry

As described on page 3, critical conversation is “a grouping of recognized ideas about that interest” (Clary-Lemon et al.). Critical conversation relates to discovery as the critical conversation becomes apparent during the early stage of research when a question or multiple questions are first being investigated (Clary-Lemon et al. 3). Burkes metaphor of a party to explain a critical conversation was very helpful to understand its meaning. It allowed me to realize how critical conversations naturally develop through research. As stated in the metaphor the party was going on before they got there and after they left, like how research has happened before you and will continue to happen after you. The metaphor mentions how at first you don’t have any speaking points to make at the party because you are unfamiliar with the current conversation but after a while you start to learn and can begin to contribute to the group conversation. This parallels critical conversation in research because at first a researcher is unfamiliar with the current context of the research but after a while they have learned enough through discovery that they can begin to contribute to the critical conversation surrounding that group of research. From the section on “Uncertainty and Curiosity” it states how research should be done. It tells you that a lot of people are taught to research the following way: “we decide what we’re going to argue, we look for those things that support that argument, and then we write up the thing that we knew from the outset. If that sounds familiar, we suggest that you scrap that plan” (Clary-Lemon et al. 6). From my previous understanding of research, especially in previous research papers, this is almost exactly how I went about it. However, in this method I miss out on the important factor of genuine inquiry which allows for more thorough non-biased research. A statement I found very eye opening in the realm of research is, “Let curiosity drive you forward in work” (Clary-Lemon et al. 7). For me I understand this as instead of trying to look for the answer to what you are curious about allow the curiosity to bring the answers to you which can provide you more rich detail into the full grasp of the research at hand. Something new that I found regarding research is the importance of secondary sources. It states, “These secondary sources, the findings of other thinkers, constitute the critical conversation and might give you ideas for how you might proceed in your own project” (Clary-Lemon et al. 10). This gave me new insights because in previous research assignments primary sources have been drilled as the most important and to almost avoid secondary sources. This approach makes sense though because I feel as though this is a good introduction in the critical conversation surrounding the research

which you can then go on to find your own answers with the primary sources. Another new idea to me regarding research is that depending on the field of research it is important to adapt your research structure to fit with the specific field (Clary-Lemon et al. 15). I can see how important this is as it will affect how respected your given research is to that field.