

TOTAL CTE Word Count for inclusive of quotations and citations (350 STRICT word limit): 350 words

(**NOTE:** Include the prompts. Do not exceed one page or the word limit. Upload as a 1-page PDF to Gradescope by deadline.)

1. Identify and articulate ONE cross-cutting theme (or debate) from this week's materials. Remember that a theme is not a topic. "This week's theme is competition" is insufficient. What do this week's materials together say *about* competition? A better theme would be "this week's readings discuss the complex and controversial role of the state in the creation and management of markets." Reference and cite at least THREE readings. Use this citation format: (Smith 2019, 4). (~ 225 words)

This week, we discussed the role of corporations and the influence they have on our daily lives. To begin, Anderson describes how "the economic system of the modern workplace is communist", as "the dictator is the CEO, superiors are managers, subordinates are workers" (Anderson 2017, 39). Furthermore, she highlights that even our private lives are no longer safe, as these corporations "have the legal authority to regulate workers'...political activities, use of recreational drugs, alcohol" (Anderson 2017, 39). Unlike the past, our private lives are now also placed under scrutiny, and unfavorable actions can dramatically affect our job standing. In addition, Philippon describes how healthcare costs in the United States are much higher than in other countries, even in ones that have similar GDP per capita (Philippon 2019, 226). Further, the "annual cost for drugs was \$1443...in the US, compared with...\$749 per person in Europe" (Philippon 2019, 228) – if anything, the high cost of healthcare exacerbates the control corporations have over our lives, since the cost of healthcare incentivizes us to seek a stable income and ensure we can pay for healthcare when emergencies arise. Finally, we also discussed the modern notion of surveillance capitalism and how "it feeds on every aspect of every human's experience" (Zuboff 2018, 8), again highlighting the pervasive control of corporations on our daily lives.

2. Pick ONE reading and carefully critique the author's methodology, evidence, tone, underlying assumptions, and/or biases. Do not praise the author or work. Rather, be critical and be specific. Include ONE citation. (~75 words)

Anderson argues that in modern corporations, "the dictator is the chief executive officer (CEO)", implying that the CEO's opinion and decisions are often unchallenged since "the most highly ranked individual takes no orders but issues many". This argument mischaracterizes the role of the CEO: while it is certainly true that CEOs have immense power in steering a company's direction, large scale decisions are still often made by a board of executives rather than a single person.

3. Offer ONE clarifying question about one of the readings (e.g., something you didn't understand) OR a thoughtful question for discussion section (e.g., "can market competition be regulated in states?"). Your question could link to ideas from another week or to current affairs. Avoid questions that are too general or rhetorical. Be specific. (~25 words)

Given how interconnected we are nowadays through social media – how do we consolidate the invasive nature of surveillance capitalism, or should we embrace it?

4. What reactions – or connections - do you have to this week's materials? Consider: What were you surprised to learn? To what extent are these materials relevant to today? We are looking for thoughtful reflections. (~25 words)

While I have researched data collection and privacy in the past, it was still shocking to learn about how ubiquitous and creative their methods have become in the last couple years.

Do not exceed one page.