

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 effects of capitalism on the environment and development, especially in recent times. In Klein's book *This Changes Everything*, she opens with the story of the World Trade Organization (WTO) ruling that "a fixed percentage of renewable energy [being produced] in Ontario" was illegal, highlighting how "trade trump[ed] the planet itself" – a demonstration of capitalism's tendency to prioritize productivity over the climate. (Klein 2014, 68-69). Overall, Klein appears to have a rather cynical view of the world, as she believes that the betterment of the climate and capitalism cannot coexist. By contrast, McAfee argues that in recent history, we have become increasingly efficient as we "us[e] less and less of most resources", all the while "our economy and population continue[s] to grow" (McAfee 2019, 1). Furthermore, he remains confident that we can "improv[e] both the human condition and the [environment]", provided that "we play our cards right" (McAfee 2019, 2), highlighting his optimism about our efforts in mitigating climate change. In the same spirit as McAfee, Radelet argues that "a major transformation is underway" (Radelet 2015, 9) within poor nations – capitalism has allowed us to make great strides in "improv[ing] the fate of...millions of people in poor countries around the world" (Radelet 2015, 10), highlighting his optimism for this trend to continue.

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)

McAfee's argument that digital technologies have allowed us to "consume more...while taking less...from the planet" (McAfee 2019, 3) seems incomplete. While it is true that phones have replaced many devices, this argument forgets that while our *material* consumption has decreased, our *energy* consumption has increased. As a result, we haven't really changed how much we're taking from the planet, but instead what we're taking: our old demand for materials has been replaced by that for natural resources.

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)

There is clearly a dilemma between capitalism's tendency to produce goods, causing damage to the environment – can capitalism realistically benefit the environment while still being economically viable?

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)

When reading McAfee I'm reminded of Mazzucato's idea that governments lead the cycle of innovation – just like with technology, they have the power to lead in environmental efforts as well.

Do not exceed one page.