

Real Life Reflection

The Assignment: You will submit a short reflection at the end of the semester. Reflections should be around 500 words, but no more than 800 words. The goal of this reflection is to bridge theory and practice by critically reflecting on some aspect of the course material and linking it to a personal lived experience, current event, or pop culture. First, you will choose some aspect from the course material – a topic, idea, view or argument – that resonated with you. Second, you will explain how this aspect applies to a real-world issue. For example, you might discuss how your chosen aspect from the course material (a) gives you insight into or makes you re-think a personal experience; (b) is relevant to a real-life controversial social or political issue; (c) relates to a current event or topic in the news; (d) shows up in movie, TV show, or book; (e) influences pop culture; (f) plays out in daily life; (g) has practical implications for real people; (h) changes how you act in real-life circumstances.

Accurate Engagement with Course Material

- Explains some aspect – idea, topic, view, argument – from the course material
- Clearly, fully, and accurately explains the relevant course material
- Provides proper context to understand the relevant course material
- Demonstrates a firm grasp on the relevant material

Real-World Application

- Connects course material to something of practical significance in the real world – e.g., personal experience, current event, media, pop culture
- Thoroughly explains the ways in which the course material relates to the real world in substantial ways
- Amounts to more than just an obvious or cursory connection between course material and the real-world

Philosophical Insight

- Demonstrates original philosophical insight into a practical matter
- Provides a thoughtful exploration of something in real-life from a philosophical perspective
- Goes beyond merely explaining the relevant course material or the relevant real-life experience, event, etc.
- Makes nuanced philosophical points about the real-world

Clarity and Organization

- Writing is clear and careful throughout
- Main point of the reflection is obvious from the beginning, and is coherently developed throughout the reflection
- Paragraphs are focused, and each has a discernible purpose
- Sensible structure that makes the line of thought easy to follow

NOTE: Real-life reflections are NOT philosophy papers, and will not be graded according to the standards of a philosophy paper. Within the constraints articulated above, you have a lot of leeway to explore something in the real-world from a philosophical perspective. The content and format of these reflections are highly flexible. You are encouraged to be creative and think outside the box.