

YOUR RESPONSE TO THE SYLLABUS: A PERSONAL STATEMENT

PURPOSE: The purpose of this assignment is to write a personal statement that explores your thinking about the course syllabus and how the work required in this course fits into your major/program, your professional goals, and your life generally.

SKILLS: This assignment gives you practice developing the following skills:

- Reflecting critically to discover what a course can contribute to your personal and professional growth.
- Exercising the personal responsibility involved in finding out what you need to know on your own, not having someone tell you or you having to ask.
- Giving constructive feedback to the instructor on the content, design, and learning experiences of the course.
- Sharing your honest feelings about the course with the instructor.
- Raising questions, issues, and concerns that you have about what you'll be doing in the course.
- Writing personal reactions in professionally appropriate language

KNOWLEDGE: What knowledge you'll gain by doing the assignment:

- An understanding of the course and what's happening in it.
- A clear picture of what you'll be needing to for the course.
- The way assessment happens and how it's tied to learning in the course.
- A deeper appreciation of why you need to take this course.
- Where and how this course fits in your major or program.
- The value of knowing what's happening in a course upfront, so you won't be surprised later on, or find out what you need to know after you've completed the course.

TASKS: The personal statement comprises these tasks. Here's what you need to be able to say about your personal statement once it's completed:

- I have written between 500 and 700 words.
- I spent time reading the syllabus and thinking about my responses before I started writing.
- When I shared a reaction, I illustrated it with an example.
- I've got a single sentence that summarizes my giving my overall reaction to the course as it's described in the syllabus.
- I wrote in the first person.
- I have written a personal statement that looks and sounds professionally appropriate.
- I reread the personal statement after I'd written it and made some revisions.
- I've proofread the personal statement, correcting spelling and grammatical mistakes.
- I've written reactions that I'd be willing to share with other students in the course.
- I will submit the personal statement electronically using Dropbox per the instructor's instructions.
- I will submit the personal statement by the January 28, 2018, midnight deadline.

ASSESSMENT: Here's the criteria that will be used to assess your personal statement. Personal statements that do the following will be worth up to XX points.

- Is there evidence in the personal statement that the author has carefully read the syllabus?
- Does the author discuss how he/she thinks the course fits into life now and in the future?
- Does the personal statement include examples that illustrate the author's reactions?
- Does the personal statement provide an overall reaction to the syllabus?
- Is the tone of the personal statement constructive and professional?
- Has the author provided a personal statement without spelling or grammatical errors?