

## **Reflection on essays in Term 1**

Arts One, Hendricks, Fall 2014

**Due: Monday, Jan. 19, by noon**

I'm asking you to do a reflection on your essays from the first term that will be a start for the portfolio you need to submit at the end of the year. This way, you'll have already thought about nearly half of your essays when you do the portfolio in April. Improving on essays doesn't just come from getting comments by others; it has to be a more sustained, conscious process of going back and thinking about those, especially before one writes the next essay. So here I'm more or less making you do some of that work. This and the portfolio at the end of the year count towards your participation mark, like the blog posts and presentations.

### Where to do your reflection

Your reflection can be attached to your first essay for Term 2 (and thus shared with the other tutorial members), or just sent to me only via email, or even posted on your blog; it just depends on whether you want to share your reflection with just me, or with your tutorial members, or with an even wider audience. However you choose to do it, it must be done by **noon on Monday, Jan. 19**.

### What should be in the reflection

You should look back over the comments you have received from other students (which should be posted on the course website), as well as the ones you've received from me.

To facilitate this, the person who has created our course website has set up a way for you to see the essay and the comments together, without having to click on the little speech bubble off to the right. What you need to do is just go up to the URL address bar when you're looking at your essay and type /print after the URL (just add a slash and then the word *print* to the URL that's already there), and press Return. That should take you to a sheet that has the essay and the comments made on each paragraph, under the paragraph, in a list. The only problem I've found so far with this is that it doesn't have the names of the commenters, which I've asked him to see if he can fix.

Then, write a reflection that has the following elements.

1. Discuss at least three comments that you've received more than once, or that you think are especially important. Be sure you're discussing comments from more than one person.
  - a. Explain the comments, and give an example of how you have had this problem in one or more essays. Also, say whether you've received these comment from more than one person or not (if more than one, it might be particularly important to pay attention to).
  - b. If they're critical comments, have you done anything to address these in one or more later essays? Explain, referring to one of your essays to illustrate (just say what you've done in a particular essay). Alternatively, you may decide that you disagree with the comments, which is fine—just explain why.
  - c. If they're positive ones, just discuss them; even writing these things down in a reflection piece can help cement them for you for future essays.
2. Explain at least three things that you plan to work on in essays for next term (realizing that other things may be added later to this list!).
  - a. Ideally you would go beyond grammar/punctuation comments for this, though if that's something you really need to work on, do include it as part of your discussion.

- b. I'm going to hold you to this list to some extent in that I'm going to be asking you later to refer back to it and explain how you've attempted to work on those two things in your essays in Term 2.

Word count: I'm less interested in whether you stick to a particular word count than in whether you've done an adequate job answer the above. But I would expect that this reflection would be between 300-600 words, given what you need to say.