Unit Response Essays

Description: These are the criteria for the Essay assignments. Please pay close attention to the directions for each one as they reflect the criteria for the allotment of points. More importantly, they highlight areas for improvement.

Grid View

List View

Excellent

Good

Needs Improvement

Poor or No Submission

Content

Points Range:

22.5 (45%) - 25 (50%)

Offers an excellent exploration of key ideas related to the given question; offers an accurate summary of the key ideas in relevant resources; essay is well-organized and interesting - has a good flow. Brief quotes and paraphrases are used to help support the discussion.

Points Range:

18.75 (37.5%) - 22.25 (44.5%)

Good job of answering essay question; gives reasonably clear overview of answer. Draws from relevant sources.

Points Range:

15 (30%) - 18.5 (37%)

Some engagement with the readings but generalized or only personal experiences or opinion offered.

Points Range:

0 (0%) - 14.75 (29.5%)

Late, no submission or no evidence of engaging with the readings.

Critical Thinking

Points Range:

9 (18%) - 10 (20%)

Does an excellent job of looking at implications, asking insightful questions, and furthers the thinking about ideas presented.

Points Range:

7.5 (15%) - 8.9 (17.8%)

Does a good job of reflecting on various issues, perspectives, with some evidence of critical reflection. Goes beyond mere autobiographical reflections.

Points Range:

6 (12%) - 7.4 (14.8%)

Mostly unsupported opinion given and needs to work on taking analysis further, including asking questions and unpacking ideas.

Points Range:

0 (0%) - 5.9 (11.8%)

No Response given or far too short.

Grammar & Citation

Points Range:

9 (18%) - 10 (20%)

1 or less errors in grammar and citation. ALL Formatting instructions for paper are followed (number pages, font, etc.).

Points Range:

7.5 (15%) - 8.9 (17.8%)

2 - 5 errors in either grammar or citation.

Points Range:

6 (12%) - 7.4 (14.8%)

Citation is used but is not correct format. 5-10 grammatical errors.

Points Range:

0 (0%) - 5.9 (11.8%)

Poor grammar, formatting, and/or citations make part of the essay unreadable. OR no submission.

Specific Directions

Points Range:

4.5 (9%) - 5 (10%)

ALL directions are followed, including resources chosen, word length, focus of essay, emphasis on reflection that goes beyond opinion only.

Points Range:

3.75 (7.5%) - 4.45 (8.9%)

MOST of the directions are followed, but there are 1-3 mistakes.

Points Range:

3 (6%) - 3.7 (7.4%)

Numerous errors in following the directions, including word limit, using a blog or other inappropriate source, choosing a source that is too dated or too short or choosing a source that is not directly relevant to the assignment.

Points Range:

0 (0%) - 2.95 (5.9%)

No evidence of attention to the specific directions in the assignment. Or No submission. Word limit not met.

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