

## Reflection Paper General Instructions

**Purpose:** Throughout our time together, you will be expected to provide evidence that you understand and have reflected on an article, guest speaker, event, movie, etc. One way of doing this is to produce a well-written and thought-out response to important questions, topics, articles, events, and issues, movies. Therefore, you will be asked on several occasions to develop reflective responses.

**Format:** All reflection paper should be at least two pages, 500-600 words, 5 sentence paragraphs, typed, double-spaced and in a 10-12 point font with one-inch margins. Despite the fact that these papers are designed to reflect your thinking process, they must cite external sources, as these will help you develop an informed opinion based on facts and not biases. Thus, each reflection paper must include legitimate sources and fully referenced from class lectures, textbooks, guest speakers, movies and/or articles. Grammar and spelling will count. Do not dash these off at the last minute. These reflection papers are to be used as proof of your thoughtful, meaningful, and critical thinking of our subject matter. Though your reflection response is sometimes your personal experience or opinions, I can still grade them because your answers tell me if you did the reading or listening and how well you understand the material. In all this it is important to remember what the wise philosopher Socrates once said, “The reflected life is not worth living”. (20 points)

**HOW TO REFLECT ☺:** Throughout our time together we will have reflection questions presented to us. Whether it is in the your assigned groups, a question to focus an activity, a reflection paper, or a question posed for discussion, I am asking you to reflect usually in writing. The purpose of these reflections is to jump start our discussions, to start us out on a specific activity, or to see if you did & understand the reading. You are seniors now and I do not accept “I don’t know”, one liners, or blank pieces of paper. If you can think then you can reflect. I’ll do my best to give you the time to reflect. This means you will have to take the time to answer the question presented and expand by sharing all the following that may apply:

- Thoughts
- Feelings
- Struggles
- Likes
- Dislikes
- Comments
- Further questions this brings up
- Your experience of characters, others, and/or your self
- Where do you see/are you encouraged?
- What have you learned, how?
- Words or phrases that have struck you and why?
- What message are you interpreting for yourself?
- What touched you or was most meaningful to you?
- Why? What did you hear, see, relate to?
- How can you most fully experience, enjoy, profit, from this person, this day, this challenge?