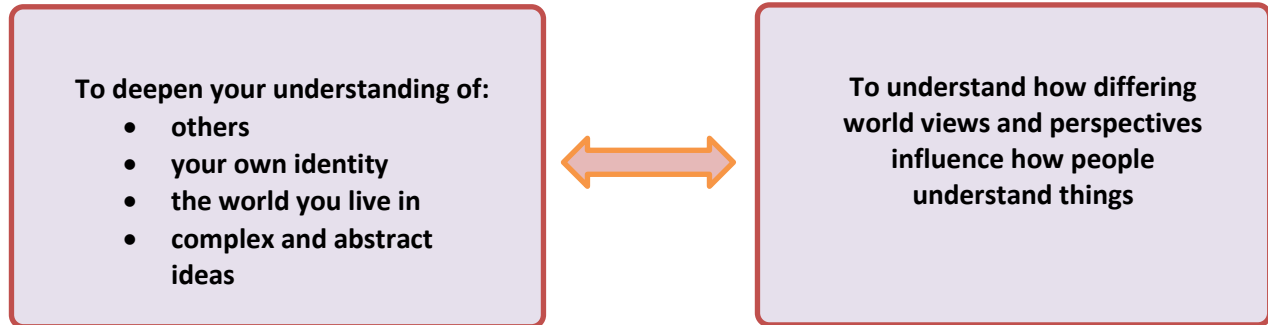


## PERSONAL RESPONSE JOURNAL ASSIGNMENT

### Why are we doing this?



At the end of the semester, you will be assessed on the Curricular Competencies listed on your Course Outline. Your job is to show me evidence of your ability in these areas. This assignment provides evidence of many of the curricular competencies, so these will become a good resource to provide evidence of these skills.

### **There will be four parts to this assignment:**

1. **Finding** relevant, engaging, and appropriate resources to engage with.
2. **Responding** to those sources to show your ideas, opinions, questions, insights, connections and deep thinking.
3. **Posing an essential question.**
4. **Sharing** one of your resources of choice and your own response to it before posing your essential question to your peers for them to respond to.

## **Part One: Finding Resources**

In order for you to be successful in all areas of this assignment, you need to choose a resource that is relevant for this task. This assignment requires you to share ideas or inspiration that is meaningful to you in some way, but should be sophisticated enough that it allows you and others to use critical thinking skills to fully explore the idea(s) being conveyed. **Find something that made you think deeply or resonated with you.**

### **Choosing a Great Resource**

**Research** – find information, ideas, quotes, videos, images that work for this task  
*(I've posted some things that may inspire you on my website)*

**Reflect** – think about it, talk to others, and shape an opinion before you move onto the writing task that requires you to share this information in a clear, articulate way. You will need to articulate your thoughts, ideas, insights, and connections.

## **Part Two: Responding/Journal Response**

For your journal entries, you will essentially be recording a dialogue, or conversation, between the ideas in the source you've chosen (the ideas that you are viewing) and the ideas you have as a reader (in response to what you are viewing).

In your journal, have a conversation with the source and with yourself. Write down your **thoughts, questions, insights, and ideas**. The important part is that you are finding an engaging source and then responding to it with your insight and ideas!

**\*\*I should get to know you through your entries\*\***

### **CONNECTION:**

For the **connection**, you should **connect the "big idea" in the source you've chosen to your own life (an experience you've had), to another text (a text can be a book, a poem, a quote, a picture, artwork, a video, a conversation, etc.), or to the world (a current or past event or issue)**. Use **ONE SPECIFIC example** to connect to.

**Choose one type of connection to make for each journal entry** (text-to-self, text-to-text, or text-to-world), but **make sure you make all three types of connections over the course of the five journal entries.**

## **INSIGHTFUL DISCUSSION:**

This part of the journal is where you **ANALYZE the “big idea” shared in your connection and source**. You are exploring possible answers to your essential question that you have asked. Think of this part of your journal as the evidence and explanation part of a paragraph or essay that uses the P.E.E. method. **You are answering a question by providing examples and explanation**. Be thorough. Try to think about *why people think, act, or feel the way they do*. Your analysis and thoughts may cause you to ask more questions in this part of the response. Think about the **WHY/the HOW/and the CAUSES**. Give **specific examples** to support your ideas. **Avoid giving advice** (don't say what people should or shouldn't do).

### **Each journal entry must include:**

1. The **DATE** you wrote your entry on
  2. The **SOURCE** of your inspiration. Write out the quote, include the image, or give a short synopsis of a video along with the title, author, or website it came from.
  3. A **CONNECTION** made between the idea in the source and ONE SPECIFIC EXAMPLE from either your own life, to another text, or to the world we live in. (PLEASE MAKE **ONE OF EACH TYPE OF CONNECTION** DURING THE FIVE JOURNALS)
  4. An **ESSENTIAL QUESTION** that prompts your insightful discussion
  5. An **INSIGHTFUL DISCUSSION/explanation** of the idea being conveyed (explain why people act, think, feel the way they do)
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## **JOURNAL FORMAT:**

**Date:** Feb. 2, 2017

**Source:** “War doesn't negate decency. It demands it, even more than in times of peace.”  
-(Spoken by Baba's character in the novel, The Kite Runner, by Khaled Hosseini.)

**Connection:** You may begin your response by saying things such as: “This quote makes me: think... question...reminds me...when I read the paper yesterday...watched the news...last year when I... I thought...was interesting because...”

**Essential Question:** What effect can certain situations have on a person's actions?

**Insightful Discussion:** When people are put in a different setting, such as war, it sometimes changes the way they act. They may do things they wouldn't normally do or act in inhumane ways because...

## Part Three: Posing an Essential Question

As opposed to other types of questions, essential questions are meant to generate thoughtful and insightful analysis of people, situations, and the world we live in. Essential questions have several important characteristics:

- They go beyond one word answers.
- They spark debate, inquiry, and argument.
- They are important and timeless. They are broad in scope and relatively universal. In literature, they are **thematic** in nature and often deal with aspects of human nature.
- They are vital and necessary to develop our understanding of issues, literature, and ultimately ourselves.

If you are having trouble thinking of essential questions, look at the “big idea” conveyed in your source and in your written response. Try to boil this down to one or two key words and form a question out of this. Some ways that may be helpful to start an essential question are:

In what ways...	How can...	What role does...	What is necessary for...
What causes...	Why does...	To what extent...	What factors...

## Part Four: Sharing Ideas with Others

For this part, at some point during this semester, you will choose one of your sources to “present” to the class and share your connections, thoughts, ideas, opinions, and insight.

**DO NOT read straight from your paper, and please don’t just “wing it”!!!!**

Come prepared with some key points or ideas you wish to mention; however, you will be sharing these ideas in a more **casual way**, not as a formal presentation. Once you have concluded your discussion of the topic, you need to pose an **ESSENTIAL QUESTION** to your peers, as their task will be based on the question you pose.

**Your presentation should follow this order:**

1. **Give them your source** (if it’s a quote, write it on the board; if it’s a video, play a 3-5 minute clip of it that highlights the main idea you wish to discuss, etc.)
2. **Share** your connection, ideas, questions, thoughts, insight about the idea or topic conveyed in the source. (3-5 minutes)
3. **Pose an essential question** to the class. Write this on the board, so they can copy it down. The rest of the class will then use that question to respond to.

**Your job will be to pose an essential question to your peers at the end of your presentation in order to begin a discussion.**

## **DUE DATES:**

You are expected to write:

- at least **ONE personal journal** entry **PER MONTH**  
(So, that means **FIVE** by the end of the semester.)
- a response to **ONE essential question** and discussion we have in class **each time there are presentations**  
(So, that means **EIGHT** by the end of the semester.)

The responses to the essential questions posed in class should be roughly **1-2 pages double spaced** and should be similar in nature to the insightful discussion written in your personal response journals. Please **write the essential question, your name, and the date** on each essential question response you write.

I will ask you to hand in your responses to the essential questions posed by presenters in the class from time to time so I can read your responses and perhaps give you some feedback. So make sure they are up-to-date.

### **JOURNAL DUE DATES**

Journal #1 due:

Journal #2 due:

Journal #3 due:

Journal #4 due:

Journal #5 due:

### **PRESENTATION DATE**

**YOUR DATE TO PRESENT IS:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you need to change this date, then find someone to trade with and **both of you need to let me know** this is confirmed.