

500 Final Paper Assignment

**A UW SSW Writing Center Workshop
Autumn 2020**

With incorporated content attributable to Vern Harner

Workshop Guidelines

- Interact through the chat box or unmute yourself
- We will be recording the first part of this workshop for those who could not attend
- The presentation will be followed by a Q & A session
- Please share your full name, program (Day, EDP Weekend, EDP Evening, etc.), and year (1, 2, 3, etc.) in the chat box for us to complete or cross-reference with your registration information
 - You can also rename yourself to include your pronouns



Workshop Agenda

- Overview, Prompt, & Structure
- Critical Reflection Essay
 - Thesis, Themes, Analytical Writing
- Annotated Bibliography
 - Descriptive vs. Critical
- Formatting Annotations
- Resources

**DISCLAIMER: There might be slight variations in the assignment guidelines based on your professor. Please refer to your syllabus for your professor's specific expectations.*




Overview



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Where are you at with this assignment? How are you feeling?

 Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

Final Assignment: Overview

- **The final assignment is to create a collection of materials that, at this point in time, you consider your social work canon. For this context, we are defining “canon” as the foundational body of work that represents the values, beliefs, and perspective of social work.**
- **The field of social work does not have an “official” canon--this is an opportunity for you to create your own.**
- **The purpose of this final assignment is for you to critically reflect on the history of the field of social work (with all its complexities), it’s connection to contemporary practice, and the nuances of your own role in its trajectory.**

Final Assignment: Prompt

- **Format**
 - 7-8* double-spaced pages
 - 12 pt font, 1 inch margins, page numbers
 - APA format (7th edition)
 - Title Page: title and your name
 - Critical Reflection Essay
 - Annotated Bibliography
- **Critical Reflection: 2-3 pages***
 - Cite materials in annotated bibliography, include an introduction and conclusion
 - Respond to the guiding questions: speak to how and why the historical narratives and analyses you cite inform the key components of your emerging social work identity and approach to practice
- **Annotated Bibliography: 4-6 pages***
 - Through descriptive & critical annotation, highlight the most relevant contributions of 7-8 items, at least 4 of which are from class materials (supplemental readings are okay). At least four decades should be represented. e.g. 1930s, 1950s, 1980s, 1990s.

Final Paper: Structure

Introduction

This is your introduction. It is one to two paragraphs that frame your paper, provide your thesis statement, and provide necessary background information. You will also state what theme(s)/tension(s) you're using, and why/how. Also included here might be a note on what terms you are using and why. Make sure to include a roadmap e.g. this paper will...

Subtitle (e.g., canon components, approach to social work, historical & contemporary values)

Subheading 1 (e.g., a specific value or kind of practice)

Then you will provide what informs your approach to social work, drawing from your references. This will move beyond just a summary of different readings. You will provide the evidence to back up your claim (thesis statement) that you gave in the introduction. Each paragraph has its own topic sentence that is then followed by evidence/details drawn from your materials. These paragraphs / sub-sections should be informed by the guiding prompts.

Subheading 2

Subheadings are a great way to help organize your paper and make it easy to follow. You can use them to reflect different sides of the tension, different sub-topics, different sub-points of your larger thesis, etc. They should still transition into one another, though.

Conclusion

Lastly, tie it up in a neat bow for us. Rephrase your thesis statement and synthesize the evidence you provided. Reiterate why your materials relate to your approach to social work. This should probably be one paragraph, but might be two. Remember that paragraphs are at least three sentences long.

Annotations

Citation 1 with hanging indent

Annotation 1 in paragraph form

****References [including those from your annotations]**

Critical Reflection

Paragraph & Essay Structure

- Within the essay, each section will have 1+ paragraphs that, when combined, support the overarching thesis statement or claim of the essay
- Each paragraph also has its own topic sentence -- a mini-thesis statement that encapsulates the point that the paragraph is making
- The topic sentence is supported by evidence (with citations) and analysis
- Further, paragraphs should transition smoothly between each other--that is, the connection between the two topics should be clear
- Each paragraphs should be at least 3 sentences long and run-on sentences should be avoided



Creating a Thesis

- **What is a thesis?**
 - **A statement that tells the reader what your interpretation of the subject matter or question at hand.**
 - **A disputable claim.**
 - **A road map for your paper.**
- **Is my thesis strong?**
 - **Can I answer the question?**
 - **Is it specific enough?**
 - **Do I take a clear position?**



Guiding Questions & Themes

- **Enduring Tensions**
 - **Deserving/Undeserving**
 - **Care/Control**
 - **Inclusion/Exclusion**
 - **Public/Private**
 - **Dependent/Independent**
- **Levels of Social Work Practice**
 - **Micro**
 - **Mezzo**
 - **Macro**
- **Values**
 - **Spectrum:**
 - **Reflective** ----- **Analytical**

“Critical Reflection” = Analytical Writing

- This is NOT a 504-style reflective paper
- This paper asks for:
 - Making a claim, backing it up with evidence
 - Your perspective in the context of social work
- Paraphrased from Dr. Dotolo’s perspective:
 - Writing analytically asks for more vulnerability than writing reflectively. This style of writing is asking you to step into trusting yourself and build the practice of providing evidence for your claims without the disclaimer that these are “just” your feelings/perspectives/lived experiences.

Annotated Bibliography

Using Your Summaries

- **Good news - you already have a head start!**
- **Now what?**
 - **Refine - integrate that feedback**
 - **Reading group notes vs. an annotated bibliography**

Strategies & Examples

Summary/Descriptive

In this article, the authors argue that _____.

They begin by stating _____. Their main points include _____.

Then, they apply a theoretical lens _____.

The points they make are illustrated by using [primary sources, quotes, personal examples, historical archives...]

They conclude by.....

Synthesis/Analysis

In “article name”, the authors argue that...

Their backgrounds as [academics, activists, white people, etc] influence their perspective, as reflected in this quote/point: “___”

Though they provide evidence for their argument, they fail to address the impact of _____.

The implications they provide are/aren't appropriate, because _____. Underlying assumptions that they don't address include _____.

By providing a contemporary social work perspective, we can....

The Ultimate Cheat Sheet for Critical Thinking

Harner, 2020, slide 18

Who...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • benefits from this? • is this harmful to? • makes decisions about this? • is most directly affected? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have you also heard discuss this? • would be the best person to consult? • will be the key people in this? • deserves recognition for this?
What...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are the strengths and weaknesses? • is another perspective? • is another alternative? • would be a counter-argument? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is the best/worst case scenario? • is most/least important? • can we do to make a positive change? • is getting in the way of our action?
Where...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • would we see this in the real world? • are there similar concepts/situations? • is there the most need for this? • in the world would this be a problem? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can we get more information? • do we go for help with this? • will this idea take us? • are the areas for improvement?
When...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is this acceptable/unacceptable? • would this benefit our society? • would this cause a problem? • is the best time to take action? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will we know we've succeeded? • has this played a part in our history? • can we expect this to change? • should we ask for help with this?
Why...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is this a problem/challenge? • is it relevant to me/others? • is this the best/worst case scenario? • are people influenced by this? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • should people know about this? • has it been this way for so long? • have we allowed this to happen? • is there a need for this today?
How...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is this similar to _____? • does this disrupt things? • do we know the truth about this? • will we approach this safely? • does this benefit us/others? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does this harm us/others? • do we see this in the future? • can we change this for our good?

Purpose & Application

- Purpose is to provide relevance, accuracy, & quality of sources cited
- Two major types of annotated bibliographies:
 1. Descriptive
 2. Analytical/Critical
- This assignment → analytical/critical
 - Not simply a summary
 - Can dedicate 1-2 sentences providing summary of content, the rest is critical analysis
 - Examines strengths & weaknesses

Descriptive Annotations

- **Descriptive Annotations are intended to DESCRIBE a book or article**
 - **Information about who the author(s) of the work are and their credentials**
 - **Summary of the work's main points, what it's ABOUT**
 - **Explanation of what the book/article includes in terms of charts, images, tables, or other related content**
 - **Describes author's main arguments and conclusions WITHOUT evaluating what the author says or concludes**

Example [Descriptive]

Breeding evil. (2005, August 6). *Economist*, 376(8438), 9. Retrieved from <http://www.economist.com>

This editorial from the *Economist* describes the controversy surrounding video games and the effect they have on people who use them. The author points out that skepticism of new media have gone back to the time of the ancient Greeks, so this controversy surrounding video games is nothing new. The article also points out that most critics of gaming are people over 40 and it is an issue of generations not understanding one another, rather than of the games themselves. As the youth of today grow older, the controversy will die out, according to the author. The author of this article stresses the age factor over violence as the real reason for opposition to video games and stresses the good gaming has done in most areas of human life. **This article is distinctive in exploring the controversy surrounding video games from a generational standpoint and is written for a general audience.**

Critical Annotations

- **Critical Annotations not only summarizes the work, it includes an EVALUATION, or analysis, of the work**
 - **The strengths and weaknesses of the article, book, or other source**
 - **The usefulness of the source for the research topic**
 - **How the source compares to other books, articles, etc. on the same topic**

Example [Critical]

Breeding evil. (2005, August 6). *Economist*, 376(8438), 9. Retrieved from <http://www.economist.com>

This editorial from the Economist describes the controversy surrounding video games and the effect they have on people who use them. The article points out that most critics of gaming are people over 40 and it is an issue of age not of the games themselves. **While the author briefly mentions studies done around the issue of violence and gaming, he does not go into enough depth for the reader to truly know the range of studies that have actually been done in this area, other than to take his word that the research is unsatisfactory.** The author of this article stresses the age factor over violence as the real reason for opposition to video games and stresses the good gaming has done in most areas of human life. **This article is a good resource for those wanting to begin to explore the controversy surrounding video games. However, for anyone doing serious research, one should actually examine some of the research studies that have been done in this area rather than simply take the author's word that opposition to video games is simply due to an issue of generational divide.**



Formatting Annotations

Formatting Guide

- **First, list the citation. Then, leave a line break and a hanging indent in between the citation and the annotation.**
- **The annotation should be about half a page long**
- **Spend 1-4 sentences summarizing/describing the material and who the author is. You'll want to mention any important background/method (Is it an empirical study? Primary source? Was it published anywhere notable?)**
- **Then, highlight the parts that are most relevant to social work, any complexities/challenges, etc.**
- **Finally, speak to how the material influences your approach to social work.**

APA Guidelines

Bemdt, T. J. (2002). Friendship quality and social development. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 11, 7-10.



In this short paper, Bemdt examined the impact of friendship quality on Canadian adolescents' social development. This study is unique in its cross-cultural approach to this issue. The major finding was that, regardless of cultural or ethnic background, adolescents with 5 to 7 close and reliable friendships, within which they felt valued and supported, reported a greater sense of stability and self-esteem than those with a greater or lesser number of self-reported friendships. The reliance on qualitative data obtained solely from interviews means this study does

- Use an APA formatted reference at the top
- Indent annotation underneath

**Examples on previous slides were content examples, not formatting examples*

Resources



Other Resources

- SSW Writing Center: socialwork.uw.edu/students/services/writing-support
- SSW Subject Librarian Lynly Beard: lynly@uw.edu
- Odegaard Writing & Research Center: <https://depts.washington.edu/owrc/signup.php>
- Purdue OWL: owl.purdue.edu
- APA Style: apastyle.apa.org

Want to keep talking?

Your Writing Tutors:

Kylie Brief, she/her

Priyanka Ghosh, they/she

Hunter Paulson-Smith, they/them

How can you meet with us?

Schedule a virtual appointment to meet 1-on-1

Weekend Writing Group: Sundays from 12 - 2 pm

Other questions? Email us at:
sswwrite@uw.edu




Q & A




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What is your energy level regarding this course and this assignment? From 1-10 with 1 = "I'm really struggling! Feeling burnt out..." and 10 = "I'm doing great!"

 Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

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After this workshop, what are words to describe how you feel now about moving forward?

 Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

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References

Harner, V. (2020). *Final paper: Personal social work canon* [Google Slides presentation]. University of Washington, SOC W 500.