

Short Essay Instructions

Course Student Learning Objective #5

To evaluate racism, classism, sexism, heterosexism, ableism, or ageism, including their origins, and causes, as it relates to working with diverse populations.

Project Overview

You will be assigned one topic (racism, classism, sexism, heterosexism, ableism, or ageism) and **write 2 short essays** (each worth 50 points) to be completed over the course of the semester. These essays are analytical, should be written in the third person, and require that you effectively find, report, analyze, and evaluate information on your topic. In Canvas I've posted links to help you succeed in writing these essays, how to search for information using available resources (i.e. the Internet and ARC Library), and how to effectively cite your sources using APA style citations. **You will be assigned a topic** during the first week of class and you will write each essay on a different aspect of the same topic.

Submission Deadlines

You will write either Essay 1 or Essay 2; then you will write either Essay 3 or Essay 4. Specific due dates are posted in the printable class calendar, but here are the general submission deadlines:

- Week 4 = Essay 1- Defining Oppression
- Week 8 = Essay 2- Stereotypes and the Media
- Week 12 = Essay 3- The Impact of Oppression
- Week 16 = Essay 4- Reducing Oppression

Late submissions in the Dropbox must be made within 48 hours and can only earn up to a C grade (70%).

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Topic Instructions

It is essential that you follow each short essay topic instructions below very carefully.

Each essay must include research from at least 3 different sources including your textbook, the Internet, or other print/electronic sources. Your submission must also adhere to college level writing standards, including a guiding thesis, introduction, body, and conclusion.

Essay 1 – Defining Oppression.

What is the definition of your topic? You will most likely find that there are varying definitions hence it is expected that you will report and contrast at least 2 definitions to the one from our textbook. What are the similarities and differences between our textbook definition and other definitions? In this essay you must also clearly identify the dominant and subordinate groups – which population receives privileges and which receive disadvantages? Be sure that your essay includes these concepts from Chapter 1 – oppression, privilege, and the textbook’s definition of your ism.

Essay 2 – Stereotypes and the Media

One key to understanding oppression is to uncover the beliefs and biases that drive it hence this essay will consist of two areas of research and require that you discuss 3 concepts of your choice from chapters 3-6:

What are the stereotypes that perpetuate your ism? Be sure that you have evidence (i.e. research) that shows these cultural beliefs exist. How are these beliefs that drive oppression transmitted and passed within our culture? The media! Provide examples of how the media perpetuates these stereotypes through what you see and don’t see across the media (which includes news, film, TV, Internet, and radio).

Essay 3 – The Impact of Oppression

Oppression creates advantages for dominant groups and disadvantages for subordinate groups – this is discrimination. Report 3-5 clear examples of disparities across multiple domains such as violence, health care, mental health care, employment, housing, and/or educational opportunities. If a disparity is reported as a percentage be sure that you provide a comparative percentage for both dominant and subordinate groups; you can also report a disparity as a ratio (for example, “seven times more likely” or “twice as often”). Keep in mind that discrimination takes many levels, such as interpersonal, organizational, cultural, and institutional, and your essay should include at least 2 different levels across at least 2 of the domains.

Essay 4 – Reducing Oppression

Now that you’ve learned about the mechanisms and effects of oppression what can be done to reduce it? To reduce discrimination and change intergroup attitudes there will need to be a multidimensional approach so be sure that you address at least 2 levels of intervention: individual, cultural, institutional, and organizational. You should be sure to report past strategies/interventions/laws as well as current strategies/interventions/laws, discuss their actual and proposed effectiveness, and apply them in the context of what you’ve learned this semester. Be sure that this essay includes at least 2 concepts from Chapter 13.

Format Requirements

Carefully follow the format requirements below. Any variation will result in lost points or no credit.

- Margins = no greater than 1 ½ inch
- Font type = Arial, Times New Roman, or any Sans type font
- Font size = 12 point / double spaced
- 650 - 1000 words (references not included)
- Title should include the topic and essay information (e.g. Ageism –Essay 1)
- Acceptable file formats:
 - Rich Text Format (RTF)
 - Word (DOC or DOCX)
 - Portable Document File (PDF)
 - *Submission of any other format may result in a zero!*

Direct Quotations

These essays are expected to be written in your own words therefore no more than 10% of the essay should be quoted. If you submit an essay with more than 10% quoted material you will be penalized one point for each percentage above 10%. If you submit a project with more than 20% quoted material you will receive an automatic zero and possibly be reported to the Dean if academic dishonesty has occurred (refer to the plagiarism policy on the next page). **Only use quotations when you can't paraphrase or summarize the content without losing its impact, value, or meaning.**

APA Citations

This is not an APA research paper, however you are expected to use APA style citations throughout your essay, which include **in-text citations** and **full citations on a Reference page**. In each essay you are expected to cite **at least 3 unique sources** and will be **penalized 2 points** for each missing resource. Do NOT use Wikipedia or any other wiki in your essays.

- If you submit a project without any citations you will receive an automatic ZERO.
- If you use MLA, footnotes, or any other style you will be penalized 5 points.

Links on plagiarism and APA style citations are provided in CANVAS.

You are expected to include concepts / theories / research from relevant chapters in your textbook in each essay. Be sure to appropriately cite the textbook as well as any other source you use in gathering information.

Plagiarism

You are responsible for submitting original work (new and previously untested) and I reserve the right to question anybody and take appropriate actions to enforce this policy. Upon submission in CANVAS these essays will be checked through a plagiarism detector to verify originality. If your submission demonstrates an egregious act of plagiarism you will be given an automatic zero for this project, will be reported to the BSS Area Dean, and possibly the campus disciplinary officer. If you use citations to avoid plagiarism but do so incorrectly or inconsistently, you may receive a smaller penalty for plagiarism (see the project rubric).

Characteristics of Critical Thinking Skills

Each essay will be evaluated on your ability to demonstrate critical thinking skills. Here are some examples...

<i>Strong Critical Thinking</i>	<i>Weak Critical Thinking</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyzes issues from multiple perspectives. • Expands on the issue and draws conclusions. • Appropriately cites sources. • Evaluates research. • Employs problem solving. • Evaluates credibility & origins of information. • Engages in logical analysis of issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responds from opinion only. • Does not report or analyze research. • Analyzes issues at a superficial level. • Leaves unresolved or unanswered questions. • Does not evaluate or draw conclusions. • Sources used are biased or lack authority. • Reiterates information, without analysis.

Penalties

- Essay is off-topic = no credit
- No citations = no credit
- Unacceptable file format = no credit
- Submission is less than 650 words (Title page and Reference page not included) = no credit
- Plagiarism = no credit and reported to the Dean
- More than 20% quoted information = no credit
- Exceeds the 10% quotation maximum = -1 point per percentage, up to 20%.
- Did not cite at least 3 unique sources = -2 points per missing citation
- Incorrect citation style = 5 point penalty
- Late submission in Canvas = can only earn up to a C (70%)

Short Essays Rubric

	Superior (10 points)	Good (8 points)	Average (6 points)
Organization and Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization is sequential and paragraphs are well developed. Smooth and effective transitions between paragraphs. Thoughtful introduction includes an effective “hook.” Conclusion concisely wraps up essay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competent organization and structure, without sophistication. Smooth and effective transitions between paragraphs. Introduction clearly introduces the topic. Conclusion summarizes main points. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some organization but paragraphs are presented without context. Non-linear transitions between paragraphs. Introduction is missing or off-topic. Conclusion is brief or abrupt, with little connection to the rest of the essay.
Thesis and Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging and clear thesis statement in the introduction. Thesis is supported by main points. Thesis statement is reiterated in conclusion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear thesis statement. Thesis is supported by main points. Thesis statement is repeated in the conclusion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis statement is weak, unclear, or too broad. Thesis is implicitly related to main points. Thesis statement is missing in conclusion.
Critical Thinking Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates at least 5 STRONG critical thinking skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates at least 3 STRONG critical thinking skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates both STRONG and WEAK critical thinking skills.
Concept Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively integrates elements from the textbook into the essay. Includes 3 concepts from the textbook. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrates elements from the textbook into the essay. Includes 2 concepts from the textbook. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrates elements from the textbook into the essay. Includes 1 concept from the textbook.
APA Citations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent use of APA style in-text and full citations. No errors in APA style. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent use of APA style in-text and full citations. Few errors in APA style. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inconsistent use of APA style in-text or full citations. Many errors in APA.

You will earn a maximum score of 5 points for each category in which your essay does not meet the minimum requirements in the far right column of this rubric. If you do not integrate any concepts from the textbook you will receive a maximum of 3 points for that category.