**Guide to “Think Pieces”**

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You are required to write four “Think Piece” essays during the semester, which the best three grades together will constitute your Think Piece grade for the course. They are short essay answers to specific questions addressed to documents.

Think Pieces should be 1 ½ to 2 pages in length. They must be typed, double-spaced, and use 12-pont font and one-inch margins. They should have titles and their pages stapled together. You are not to do additional research or include footnotes in your think pieces.

A grade: Think Piece is a well-written, strongly supported, sophisticated, and interesting

response that shows you read the entire assigned reading, grasped its main

points, and took the time to organize your thoughts before answering the

assigned question(s). The think piece is marked by solid prose and correct

punctuation and spelling.

B+ grade: Think Piece makes some very good points but perhaps lacks logical construction,

doesn’t answer the assigned question in a full or compelling manner, or has

some minor problems with its prose, punctuation, and/or spelling.

B- grade: Think Piece offers a surface-level answer the assigned question, perhaps lacks

structure, clarity, or compelling evidence, or is marked by too many grammatical

and/or punctuation errors.

C+ grade: Think Piece is vague, doesn’t explicitly answer the assigned question, or suggest

to the reader that you did not leave yourself enough time to do a good job.

Otherwise solid think piece that possesses multiple grammatical and punctuation

errors will receive a C+ as well.

D+ grade: Think Piece reads like a hastily written response that suggest that the author did

not carefully consider the assigned readings. Essays that possess grammatical,

punctuation and spelling errors that seriously disrupt its clarity will also

receive a D+.

Failing Grade: Think Piece shows little or no evidence that you have read are considered the

assigned document or have put in the appropriate amount of effort.