**Reflection Papers – A (Very) Brief How-to**

1. Read the assignment in question. Read actively, making sure to note the thesis and support for it. You can also highlight items you may want to quote in your reflection. This is your chance to identify what will go into your paper.
2. Organize your thoughts towards an essay. A reflection paper is your opportunity to demonstrate to yourself and the instructor that you understand the material and have a reaction to it. The essay should at least have the following parts.
   1. Introduction – Who wrote the piece and what in general was it about?
   2. Summary – What are the specifics of the piece and what is the overall message/thesis about it? It is very important that you show here that you understood the main purpose of the author.
   3. Evidence – What evidence is there that supports the author’s thesis? Do you agree that this evidence supports the thesis?
   4. Reaction – How has your thinking changed? Do you accept the author’s thesis? Has the paper left you with any unanswered questions or given you ideas about what to read or research next?
   5. Conclusion – Summarize what they said and what you have said. Connect to larger concepts here if you can.
3. Have someone else **read** it. Looking at it for less than one minute and saying “It’s good!” does not constitute “reading” your paper. They need to offer feedback.
4. Make any edits you think necessary. 300-700 words is sufficient.
5. Submit the paper.