

# POLITICAL & SOCIAL THOUGHT

## Verbal Reading Question Reviews

At the beginning of each class, one student will be randomly selected (by the roll of dice) to present a five-minute reading question review. In particular, this review will respond to all the reading questions (posted on the course website) assigned for the previous class meeting. In doing so, that student must present using *his or her own handwritten* notes.

The purpose of this assignment is to ensure that you are taking good class notes, understand what it is we have accomplished during each class, and organizing your notes afterwards around the assigned reading questions.

You will do at least one reading question review. However, the exact frequency of verbal reading question reviews is random.

### Instructions

You only have five minutes to present using your handwritten notes. (*Using typed notes or notes on an electronic device is not permitted.*) I will ask you to stop after that time is up.

Organize the review in the same numbered order as the assigned reading questions, regardless of the order in which these issues were actually addressed during class.

### Using Free Passes

If you are randomly selected, you may use a free pass to have me to re-roll the die. However, keep in mind that the die may select you again!

### Feedback, Evaluation & Grading

I will provide feedback on all (verbal and written) reading question reviews by writing some brief comments and filling out a rubric. The rubric criteria (see below) will help me assess the quality of your work based on a set of standards and let you know the extent to which you met those expectations.

Each reading question review is graded according to the 10-point grading scale from page 1 of the course syllabus. For verbal reviews, if you are selected but not present, you receive a 0.00 (R). Failure to email me a written review when due will result in a 0.00 (R) for that assignment. Your reading question review grade is determined at the end of the semester by taking the average of all your (verbal and/or written) review grades.

***Keep in mind that if you are worried about your overall reading question review grade, you are always free to voluntarily submit a written reading question review.***

***Please do not hesitate to see me if you have any questions or concerns about this assignment.***

## Written Reading Question Reviews

If you are absent or late to class—even by five seconds—you are required to email me a written reading question review for that day's assigned reading questions (posted on the course website) before 11:59PM the next day.

The purpose of this assignment is to motivate you to show up to class on time while ensuring that you are caught up with any material you may miss.

If you attend each class on time, then you will *never* be required to submit a written reading question review.

### Instructions

Your write up should be 700–800 words in length, use APA-style citations, and otherwise conform to the “Formatting Requirements” posted on the course website. Please use the MS-Word template also posted on the website that satisfies all these requirements. **Written reviews without a properly filled out cover page (i.e., a completed Commitment to Academic Integrity Form) will receive an automatic 0.00 (F).**

This write up should be organized in the same way as required for the verbal reading question reviews.

### Using Free Passes

If you are late or miss class, you may use a free pass to completely skip this assignment.

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# Reading Question Reviews (Continued)

## Collaboration & Academic Integrity

You always have permission to consult the notes—but *nothing* more—of your classmates. Indeed, I highly encourage you all to talk with each other and compare notes *outside* of class. However, I expect that you use this as a reference for putting together *your own* notes and improving your own understanding in responding to the reading questions. All reading question reviews must ultimately be in your own words in order to demonstrate your understanding.

So while you may look at the notes of your classmates outside of class, you must use your own version of handwritten notes for putting together your own review. In other words, *this is not a group project*: you cannot work with classmates to put together a single review that one of you may then present or submit. This is why during your verbal reading question reviews you may only consult your own handwritten notes and not notes from photocopies, print outs, or electronic devices.

Regardless, you must still be honest about any outside assistance you may receive. This includes help from classmates, your friends/family, as well as the instructor. If you use any ideas from another person, you must properly cite that person and acknowledge them at the end of your presentation or write up.

## Rubric Criteria

Reading question reviews will be judged as either “Excellent”, “Satisfactory”, “Mediocre”, or “Unacceptable” according to a set of criteria. The following are general requirements expected throughout the review:

1. **Technical Requirements [Only for Written Reading Question Reviews]:** Does the write up follow the “Formatting Requirements” posted on the course website?
2. **Clarity:** Does the review follow the standards of spoken or written English? Are words are chosen and used for their precise meanings?
3. **Organization:** Is the review easy to understand and follow? Are different points clearly distinguished? Does the review follow the order of the of the reading questions?
4. **Competency:** Does the review display competency and understanding concerning course material?
5. **Academic Integrity:** Does the review properly cite and/or acknowledge all outside sources? Are the standards of academic integrity followed?

*(Please note that depending on the severity of the circumstances, a mark of mediocre or unacceptable for academic integrity may also result in the instructor reporting a possible academic integrity violation to the Executive Director of the Georgetown University in Qatar Honor Council.)*

These criteria apply more specifically to the content of the review:

6. **Relevance:** Is each part of the review clearly a relevant response to the assigned reading questions?
7. **Completeness (with each Reading Question):** Does the review fully address each of the reading questions?
8. **Consultation (of the Text):** Does the review consult the assigned reading to fill in any gaps that might not have been fully covered during class?
9. **Overall Analysis:** Does the review successfully break down its responses to the previous class’ reading questions into meaningful and relevant parts?

I will also distribute a sample rubric along with a full explanation of what constitutes “Excellent”, “Satisfactory”, “Mediocre”, and “Unacceptable” for each of the above criterion.