

## **Critical Book Review**

**Note:** It is every student's responsibility to read the guidelines.

### **Rationale/Paper type**

This assignment will teach students about the process of writing a critical book review. Writing is an important aspect in education but also in many career fields. In future jobs, students will be asked to evaluate or develop a proposal in their field therefore this assignment will provide excellent practice. Students are required to integrate the knowledge learned from the textbook and course reading to effectively develop a cohesive research book review.

**Learning Objectives:** This assignment will satisfy the following course learning objectives below.

- Develop critical thinking skills through reflection
- Develop Rhetorical Knowledge
- Awareness of diversity & social justice beyond tolerance
- Apply conventions
- Develop writing Skills
- This assignment satisfies the following Department of Communication Studies learning outcomes: Writing, concepts, critical thinking, and ethics.

### **Procedure**

The overall book review will be developed in several stages. Students will have a first draft and a second draft. Every draft is different therefore please pay close attention to the criteria. Dr. Perry may add updates to this assignment. Students must integrate all comments noted on the assignment description, lecture, and the criteria.

**Audience:** The audience of this paper will be Communication scholars and students in Organizational Communication 228.

### **Overall Process:**

Students must revise each draft based on feedback from their peers, WWU Research & Writing studio, and Dr. Perry. The final revised draft will be submitted to Dr. Perry and the earlier draft (see syllabus for dates). APA is the writing format that must be utilized throughout your papers. The APA text also provides a discussion on how to write key areas of your paper.

**Page limit of the entire paper:** 4-5 pages not including the title page and references. Please read APA for specific guidelines.

**Sources:** Students will be asked to use the Tompkins textbook and at least two other sources from class readings. Do not include direct quotes in your paper.

**Evaluation Criteria:** Dr. Perry will post the evaluation criteria via CANVAS. Part of your evaluation criteria will come directly from the paper description assignment.

### **I. Introduction:**

The questions and points below are here to help you develop your introduction. See APA for how to develop an introduction. The problem, thesis, significance, and purpose must be written in at least two to three paragraphs. Label the introduction. **DO NOT LABEL THE BOOK**

OVERVIEW, PROBLEM, THESIS, SIGNIFICANCE, OR PURPOSE. Please include the thesis and statement of problem in the same paragraph. Follow the order below.

The Book Overview: Who is the author? What is the book about?

Thesis Statement/Problem Statement: Use one sentence declaring your overall argument.

- It is the stand that the writer intends to take within the paper
- It is the main idea of your entire paper
- What is your academic argument?
- It is a declaration of your belief. Throughout the paper you will have arguments to support this thesis statement.

Statement of Problem/argument (cite sources to support your point)

- What is the problem or issue that the author discusses?
- How is the author addressing the problem?
- What have you noticed about this problem?
- What has been neglected?

Significance (cite sources to support your point)

- Why is this problem/issue important to explore? Explain and cite.
- Who can benefit from this paper and how?
- What theory will help us understand what is going on?

Purpose

- What is the purpose of the book?
- What is the purpose of your book review?

## **II. Analysis**

This is the most descriptive section of your paper. The analysis should be written in two pages minimum. Please be sure to address the points below.

- Integrate all three sources in this section. Discuss concepts and theories learned from class and how each relates to points made in your paper.
- How did the author balance approach and audience?
- Did the author use a variety of voices? Were some voices heard more than others?
- How did the language feel to you? Too simple, difficult to understand? Explain.
- The paper should focus on organizational communication. Analyze how the content relates directly to organizational communication.
- Include a critical assessment of the book/arguments made.
- Further discuss your reaction to the book? Were you surprised, persuaded, informed?
- Discuss how an audience can benefit from this book.
- Discuss the strengths of the book and areas for improvement. Be sure to support your points.

## **III. Personal Experience**

- Discuss what you have learned about homelessness and how it relates to what Tompkins is saying.
- Share your experience about getting to know Tompkins.
- How can you relate your service-learning project to issues discussed in the book?
- What are you personally doing about addressing homelessness?

## **IV. Implications & Conclusion**

**Implications** (who may benefit from your study) (**center this heading**)

- ❑ Answers the question, So what? So what does all of this mean? Who should be concerned about this issue? Why?
- ❑ Discuss implications for policy makers
- ❑ Discuss implication for future researchers
- ❑ Discuss who else should care about this issue.

**Conclusion: (restating the introduction)** (sub-heading)

- ❑ Summarize the purpose of your paper.
- ❑ Summarize the main points of your paper?
- ❑ Your final thoughts and what makes your book review important

**References**

**References (not included in the page count)**

Include a reference page. Use APA format