

# Weeks 1-7 Discussion Portfolio

## ASSIGNMENT

**Due Date:** [XXX]

**Cutoff Date for Late Papers:** [XXX] See the Syllabus for information about the late policy.

Your Weeks 1-7 Discussion Portfolio will be averaged with the Weeks 8-14 Discussion Portfolio to form 15% of your course grade. Please see the Syllabus for more details.

Your Discussion Portfolio document should include:

1. The full text of **your 3 personal best discussion forum posts from Weeks 1-7**, labeled with the week number, thread name, and date. (Tip: to find the exact date of a post that's in the past, rather than a general date like "1 month ago," hold your cursor over the text in the upper right corner of the post "box.") For each of your "3 personal best" selections, just include *your* post, not the whole thread. Do not revise your post for inclusion in the Weeks 1-7 Discussion Portfolio.
2. A **1-paragraph explanation** of why you chose these 3 posts as the best representatives of your contribution to the weekly discussions.
3. The full text of the single **overall best discussion post from Weeks 1-7 by a student other than you**, labeled with the week number, thread name, and date.
4. A **1-paragraph explanation** of why you chose this as the best overall post.
5. **Completed self-evaluation rubric.**
6. A **1-paragraph explanation** of how you think you could improve your discussion participation in the upcoming weeks.

Why am I asking you to include the "overall best discussion post" by *another* student? There are two reasons. First, the act of choosing encourages you to reflect on what makes for great discussion contribution, and second, I'm curious to see what you all think!

## FORMATTING

**Please submit your paper in Microsoft Word or PDF file format (.pdf, .doc, or .docx) only!** If you use another program, such as Pages, export your paper as a Word or PDF document. Other file formats are not "readable" within Blackboard, so following these instructions is very important for enabling me to read, assess, and comment on your portfolios. Assignments should be formatted as follows:

- Eleven or twelve-point font with one-inch margins
- Either single- or double-spaced is fine for this assignment
- First page should include your name, course number, and assignment name
- Do not include a separate title page
- All pages should be numbered
- Filename should follow this form: yourlastname\_discussion1 (for example, if I were submitting a paper, I'd name the file **shrieves\_discussion1**)

**Use the template file linked in the assignment on Blackboard as the basis for your Weeks 1-7 Discussion Portfolio.** Tip: when you copy-and-paste posts from the discussion forums in Word, use "Paste and Match Formatting" so your document looks unified.

## GRADING OF WEEKS 1-7 DISCUSSION PORTFOLIO

Your Discussion Highlights will be graded on the following criteria:

Criterion	Weight
<b>Reflection and Self-Assessment:</b> Portfolio includes all required sections; reflection paragraphs and self-assessment show thoughtful evaluation of your participation	10%
<b>Sharing Insight:</b> Your portfolio shows that you have thought deeply about the course material, for example by doing the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Citing and discussing specific passages from the reading assignments</li><li>- Sharing a helpful resource that could augment the class's understanding of the weekly topics and texts</li><li>- Responding to a specific point from the week's material</li><li>- Asking a thoughtful, specific question about the week's material</li></ul>	35%
<b>Close Reading:</b> Your portfolio demonstrates insightful, detail-oriented textual analysis, in other words, discussing and drawing conclusions from the language and literary characteristics of a targeted selection from one of the primary texts	10%
<b>Interaction:</b> Each of your portfolio posts demonstrate that you're taking part in a conversation by doing one or more of the following things: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Posing questions to stimulate discussion</li><li>- Replying directly and specifically to another student's ideas</li><li>- Giving new threads a creative, specific title to entice others to respond</li><li>- Showing awareness of the discussion by not creating redundant threads</li></ul>	35%
<b>Writing Quality:</b> Your portfolio posts demonstrate engaging, well-organized, grammatically-correct writing. Your posts seem carefully composed rather than hastily dashed off.	10%