

Assignment: Weekly Online Quizzes (20% of your grade)
Due: Once per week from Week 2 through Week 9

Each week from Week 2 to Week 9, you will be responsible for submitting to Canvas a Quiz based on one of the week's readings that demonstrates your ability to not only comprehend the text but also understand its uses and implications. You need only submit on one day each week, the choice is yours and could be based on your interests, your wanting to write/think through a particularly difficult concept, and/or your schedule that week. These should be a long paragraph in length, no more than one double-spaced page. The point of these writings is to isolate a critical concept from the week's readings and explicate it. To do so you should:

1. **Focus on one critical concept and refer to a quote** from the reading, either the main ideas or a smaller point in the essay that helps explain the main ideas of the text.
2. **Refer to a quote** to anchor your discussion and explicate the quote. That is, use the Quote Sandwich format to perform a brief **close reading** of the quote in order to **explain** the concept.
3. **Discuss some of the critical concept's implications**, which means offer some idea about how one can use this concept to analyze our class's texts or issues. You might accomplish this by briefly applying this concept to "read" one of our (or another) cultural texts or by thinking of a way that this concept could be used to think about the intersection of race, gender, and/or sexuality in America. This part will be exploratory and intellectually creative, a brainstorming of some ways the concept is useful.
4. **Ask a critical question** of your text. Refer to the handout to write a critical question about your interpretation of the text that might be used by you or others to write a claim for a paper.

This quiz is meant to:

- demonstrate your comprehension of a reading
- demonstrate your focused, close reading skills by engaging a particular critical or literary concept/idea in depth
- demonstrate your ability to think critically by discussing a concept's implications or uses when thinking about social issues
- prepare you to contribute to our class discussions
- begin your thinking about Short Papers or the Final Paper

This assignment engages Course Objectives 1 (demonstrating understanding and beginning to contextualize and analyze), 2 (close reading texts), 3 (using close reading to discuss implications of ideas and practicing skills to produce future paper claims) and 4 (using literature to think about social issues)

You will be graded on having posted weekly and having accomplished all three requirements listed above as well as on your understanding of and engagement with the text's ideas and the intellectual creativity of your content. I will not be assigning individual grades to these Online Quizzes but will, rather, check to see if you've done them weekly and grade their content as a whole at the end of the class. This is 20% of your grade and you are responsible for 8 so you can expect each one to be about 2.5% of your grade. If you have a question about how well you are doing on these, please ask; I'm happy to offer suggestions for improvement if necessary.