

GUIDELINES FOR DISCUSSION SELF-ANALYSIS ESSAY

Mechanics: 1 page (typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. Times Roman, 1" margins); essay form, e.g., with introductory paragraph, thesis/topic sentences (*highlighted*), correct grammar and punctuation (see Checklist). (First-person, of course, *is* appropriate in this type of essay.)

Deadline: See calendar.

Contents of midterm and end-of-course essays: Building on discussion tracking forms and your discussion evaluations, comment on your growth/development/status as a discussant this semester. *Students' essays will emphasize different points depending on "where" they started the course (in terms of experiences, skills, problems, etc.) and the role(s) they have played in discussions.*

The following questions should help with jumpstarting your thinking and your essays. *Use them to ensure that your essay demonstrates your level of understanding of yourself as a discussant and what makes effective discussions.* Be sure to tie your comments to your class.

- Do you see effective discussions differently now than you did at the start of the course? (What do you see as making discussions effective? What causes discussions to be strong? weak?)
- In what ways have you been a strong or effective speaker (in terms of preparation, performance, etc.)?
- What have you learned from classmates' handling of discussions?
- Do you see yourself as a speaker differently now than you did at the beginning of the course?
- In what areas have you improved? How?
- What are your problem areas? Are they new or continuing?
- What prompted or helped lead to your improvement?
- What has hindered your improvement?
- In what ways can or will you change your discussion strategies in the future?
- What are your plans for strengthening areas of weakness?
- In what ways did you improve that were likely not obvious to others?
- What will you be like as a discussant in future discussion situations?

This essay is strictly about discussion;
do not include other course requirements or assignments.

Title attachment and e-mail "subject line: last name essay number discussion 1
e.g., Johnsonessay5discussion1

*Your essay will receive a grade and will affect your discussion grade for the first half of the semester.