

## Real Life Reflection

The Assignment: The goal of real-life reflections is to bridge theory and practice by critically reflecting on some aspect of the course material and linking it to a personal lived experience, current event, or pop culture. First, you will choose some aspect from the course material – a topic, idea, view or argument – that resonated with you. Second, you will explain how this aspect applies to a real-world issue. For example, you might discuss how your chosen aspect from the course material (a) gives you insight into or makes you re-think a personal experience; (b) is relevant to a real-life controversial social or political issue; (c) relates to a current event or topic in the news; (d) shows up in movie, TV show, or book; (e) influences pop culture; (f) plays out in daily life; (g) has practical implications for real people; (h) changes how you act in real-life circumstances. Reflections should be between 500-1000 words.

### Thorough and Accurate Engagement with Course Material

- Clearly, fully, and accurately explains some aspect – idea, topic, view, argument – from the course material
- Provides proper context to understand the relevant course material
- Demonstrates a firm grasp on the relevant material

### Real-World Application

- Connects course material to something of practical significance in the real world – e.g., personal experience, current event, media, pop culture
- Thoroughly explains, motivates, and develops the ways in which the course material relates to the real world in substantial ways
- Amounts to more than just an obvious or cursory connection between course material and the real-world

### Philosophical Insight

- Demonstrates original philosophical insight into a practical matter
- Provides a thoughtful exploration of something from real-life from a philosophical perspective
- Goes beyond merely explaining the relevant course material or the relevant real-life experience, event, etc.
- Makes nuanced philosophical points about the real-world

### Clarity and Organization

- Writing is clear and careful throughout
  - Keeps word choice and sentence structure simple
  - Says exactly what you mean in an easy-to-understand way
- Main point of the reflection is obvious from the beginning, and is coherently developed throughout the reflection
- Paragraphs are focused, and each has a discernible purpose
- Sensible structure that makes the main line of thought easy to follow

**NOTE:** Real-life reflections are NOT philosophy papers, and will not be graded according to the standards of a philosophy paper. Within the constraints articulated above, you have a lot of leeway to explore something in the real-world from a philosophical perspective. The content and format of these reflections are highly flexible. You are encouraged to be creative and think outside the box.