

Preparation: Module 5 Discussion Questions and Reflections

Purpose

AP Seminar introduces students to academic and professional literature that is complex, argumentative, and methodological. Some texts may stretch students beyond the typical reading of the literary and textbook materials in their other courses. As a result, it is expected that students will need to develop reading strategies for expository reading while also developing practice in developing inquiries. Technical Reading Questions and Reflections assignments ask students to record and further develop questions for discussion as they emerge in their active readings of the texts. Once questions are developed, students should reflect and respond to their own questions. These reflections should be relatively informal but should explore the depths of the reading, the difficulties emerging as they lead to the student's question(s), and note the complexities, relevant interpretations, implications, etc. These questions and reflections serve as good preparation for discussions of the texts in a class setting and as good practice for developing the kinds of curiosity that lead to good research questions for tasks later on.

In the Classroom: Set-up

Teachers may choose to apply the assignment in this module as in Modules 2 and 3 or use the following suggestion for Module 5.

What To Do

Like Module 4, Module 5 focuses on the synthesis of conversation across sources. To prepare for full-class discussion and brainstorming of the broad themes of the provided materials, students should take notes individually for each source. Once all sources have been engaged individually, students should look for broadly-connecting themes, areas of agreement or disagreement, or lines of reasoning and inquiry that flow between two or more sources and provide commentary for such in their notes. At the end of their notes, students should have 2-3 inquiry questions that could be starting points for group research discussion. Each created question *also* needs a short reflection, including which sources were the inspiration for the question and why, and what the relevance of the question might be (considering the intended audience, what's at stake in the answer, etc.). Students are expected to reference these notes in small group discussions that follow this exercise (see mind-mapping activity later in the module).