

## **DIRECT ENGAGEMENT BLOG ASSIGNMENT**

### **3 Direct Engagements with the Readings**

You are required to write 3 entries in which you engage with our course readings. There is no word count requirement. Your entry can be as long (within reason) or as short as you think necessary in order to demonstrate a critical engagement with your chosen reading/readings. By critical engagement I mean that your entry clearly demonstrates:

- that you have closely read (that means more than once or even twice) the reading
- that you have thought through it in terms of appreciation, critique and construction. I would encourage you to play around with your word count, but aim for shorter entries rather than longer ones.

**Appreciation** involves figuring out what the author is saying and demonstrating a clear understanding of their argument and how they develop and defend it. Appreciation does not require that you agree with the reading. Instead, it requires that you clearly state what the author is trying to state. What is their main argument? What is the purpose of that argument? How do they defend it?

**Critique** involves assessing what the author is saying. Critique should not involve a total rejection or dismissal of your chosen readings. Instead, they could involve raising some critical or questions and/or exploring the benefits or limitations of the argument.

**Construction** involves applying the concepts from the reading to your own thoughts, areas of interest and research or experiences. It could also involve applying the reading to the topics/discussions of our class.

One of your direct engagements must be on your tracking topic extra reading. These readings will be posted when we discuss your tracking topic assignment on sept 20th.

You may also do a live-tweet of your engagement with the reading/s. You could do this alone or with 1-2 other class members. If you live-tweet, you must embed all of your tweets into a blog post and include a brief discussion of how twitter helped/didn't help you engage with the reading/s. While there is no min/max tweet for this assignment, you need to include enough tweets to demonstrate a critical engagement with your readings.

### **Mash-up**

- At least 2 readings from class
- 1 Queer This! (yours or someone else's)
- Another Student's Direct Engagement
- Whatever else from our blog or other blogs that is relevant

Combine all of these to make an entry in which you critically reflect on the following question: What is queer/ing? You don't have to provide a definition of queer (although you can), just an engagement with the question and with your various sources. This entry is your opportunity to articulate your own vision and to offer it up to others to

queering theory, fall 2011

reflect on. Be creative and push yourself to engage deeply with our blog/readings. Good luck and have fun!

### **Remix/Redux/Revisit**

The purpose of this entry is to revisit an entry, reading, or topic from early in the semester and to critically reflect on how your perspective has shifted (or been reinforced) during the course of the semester. This assignment should be posted by dec 7.

Here's how:

- Pick a reading, one of your past entries or a one of my class summaries from the first half of the semester (up until 10/25).
- Write up a 1-2 sentence summary of your thoughts from that time. Then, critically reflect on how your thinking about the reading, the topic of your entry, or the topic of that class discussion has shifted (or how it has stayed the same--or been reinforced).
- As part of this critical reflection, make sure to offer up some of your thoughts on whether or not it is helpful to revisit past entries--is this a benefit of blogging? Is it helpful/not helpful to have access to all your/our past ideas? Are my class summaries helpful in clarifying the concepts (or complicating them in productive ways)?

### **Comments on other DEs**

You are required to comment on 2 other direct engagements. Your comments should demonstrate a respectful and critical engagement with the post author's entry. You can build off of what the post author is saying or raise some critical questions of their summary/assessment of the topic of their direct engagement. The purpose of these comments is to further our blog/class conversations and our exploration of the readings/topics. Therefore, make sure that your comments are respectful and aimed at opening up more discussion as opposed to shutting it down.