

Comm 100: Mass Media & Society
Sample Assignment: In-class Discussion and Write-up

In-Class Discussion:

We will have group discussions five times throughout the semester, on Fridays, roughly every three weeks. Each discussion session is worth 20 points, but you will only be graded on 4/5. You will be randomly placed into a discussion group (listed on Canvas during the third week) which will be your group for the entire semester. You will receive pre-written questions from the instructor and will discuss those questions for most of the class time. We will end with a full class discussion in which every group will share key points from their conversation. A bullet point list or brief written summary of your discussion and the names of your group members who were present will be turned in at the end of each discussion day.

Grade Breakdown

80 points (based on 4/5 discussions) + 20 points (written discussion summary) = 100 points total. There will be 5 in-class discussions throughout the semester. Each discussion will be worth 20 points, but you will only be graded on 4 discussions meaning you can miss one discussion day. The written summary of one discussion will be the final 20 points of your discussion grade

Discussion Write-up Reflection

In addition to attending discussions, you must summarize the key points, arguments, and ideas discussed of one in-class discussion. You only need to summarize one of our five discussions, but you may complete two and the lower score will be dropped from your final grade. You must summarize your small group's discussion along with major points from the conversation we have as a class. Be sure to include your own reflections and thoughts on the discussion. Formal citations are not required but referring to course concepts from lecture and/or the textbook is encouraged. See rubric below for details.

While the in-class discussion is a group effort, your write-up will be an individual effort. Write-ups are due one week after the discussion (see schedule below). Your write-up is worth 20 points of your overall discussion grade, see rubric below.

Format: Typed in 12 pt. standard font

Length: Minimum of 250 words

Due Dates:

- Discussion Day 1, January 28 → write-up due February 4
- Discussion Day 2, February 18 → write-up due February 25
- Discussion Day 3, April 1 → write-up due April 8
- Discussion Day 4, April 15 → write-up due April 22

- Discussion Day 5, April 29 → write-up due May 6

Rubric:

Each category = 5 points	Paper meets format and length requirements	Summary of In-Class Discussion	Application of Class Concepts	Personal Reflection and Critical Thinking
5/5	Meets word minimum and is completely free of spelling and grammar mistakes	Accurate and complete summary of your group's in-class discussion along with major points made by other groups	Strong application and demonstration of understanding class concepts throughout the paper.	Personal reflections draw insightful and original connections between discussion questions, group discussion, and/or any examples from class content or outside media
4/5	Meets word minimum but contains minor spelling/grammar mistakes	Accurate and complete summary of your group's in-class discussion but lacks summary of major points made by other groups	Demonstrated that you understood the concepts but the application could be stronger	Good connections between in-class discussion and course content, could be improved with more detail or length
3/5	Paper is less than 200 words and/or contains frequent spelling/grammar mistakes	Accurate summary of your group's conversation but lacks depth	Acceptable demonstration that you understood course concepts, but did not apply them enough	Reflection and outcomes considered but lack depth
2/5	Less than 150 words and/or spelling/grammar mistakes paper difficult to read	Surface level summary, needs more details	Incorrectly described or applied some of the course concepts in your reflection, some were used correctly	More descriptive rather than reflection
1/5	Less than 100 words and/or extensive grammar/spelling	Summary is inaccurate representation of	Selected appropriate	Simplistic observations,

	errors	conversation	course concepts to discuss but incorrectly described or applied them	provides little or no insight, comment or analysis,
0/5	Less than 50 words and/or grammar/spelling errors make paper unreadable	Paper does not include summary of your group's conversation	Course concepts are not discussed or applied in any way	No analysis of topics discussed