

Weekly Writing Assignments: Introduction & Goals

STS.005 requires you to submit short, weekly, writing assignments. These assignments have several goals:

- 1) Help us gauge what you are getting from the readings.
- 2) Develop specific reading and writing skills for historical analysis.

The assignments each week will be different. Future assignments will respond to how well previous assignments have worked, areas that need further practice, specific skills that will be required for the longer papers, etc.

Whatever the exact assignment, we are looking for very concise responses, ideally 200 words, 300 words max (less than one page, double spaced). If you do the reading carefully, it should not take too much additional time to complete the writing assignments. The mechanics will be more informal than for the papers: while your submissions should be well written (e.g. organized, grammatically correct, etc.), they do not require formal citations when you refer to the readings. However, if you do refer to a specific passage from the readings, please include the page number (e.g. Jones's essay was okay until p. 20, when...).

The assignments will be designed so that there is not one correct answer. Instead, we are hoping that you will respond thoughtfully and imaginatively.

Everyone must answer the first assignment. Over the remainder of the semester (10 sets of readings), each student may skip ONE assignment.