

Theology 33936: Confronting Social Issues Method of Reflection – 2011

Reflecting on your experience and the readings is meant to be a way of recording your questions and insights as you move through the SSLP experience. Be sure to set aside time twice each week when you will not be disturbed to reflect and write your two entries.

Before the SSLP:

Write a one page response to the articles about the population with whom you will work (on Concourse) and conclude with your hopes and goals for the summer.

During the SSLP:

Twice each week, choose an incident or encounter to write about and analyze through the following process. In both your journal entries and in your final paper, change the names of the people you write about for confidentiality reasons. Your journal will be read by only one other person, a graduate student or Andrea, but since most will be submitted electronically, we want to ensure confidentiality. If you do not have access to a computer, you can handwrite your reflections.

First Entry for each week: NAME

I. Describe an event or encounter and your role in it – write a **Narrative**

Include responses to these questions, as appropriate: What happened? Who was involved? How did you feel? How did others respond?

II. Analyze the incident and look for **Meaning**

Include responses to these questions, as appropriate: How well or poorly did you understand the event? How did you handle the event? Were there any barriers or conflicts which made the incident or relationship more difficult? If so, name them. How were various personalities involved in this case? What insights do you have as you reflect on this experience? What have you learned about yourself? About others? Do you see connections or questions related to your faith? Do you see the intersection of experience and tradition, a standpoint of exploration (as described by Killen and DeBeer)?

III. Enactment

What did you learn about handling a similar situation in the future? Does this incident and your reflection lead you to other actions?

Length: approximately one page

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Second Entry for each week:

I. Describe and analyze a second event or encounter, using the same guidelines as the first entry: ***NAME***

II. Response to Course Readings.

Respond to the questions on the syllabus about the readings of the week.

Length: approximately one and a half pages

After four weeks, submit your entries online.

At the end of the SSLP:

As you complete the SSLP, it is important to note the significance of the people who have accompanied you, those at your site and those you live with. How will you say goodbye? Reflect back on your initial hopes and expectations and reread your journal entries. Write a final entry summarizing what you have learned, how you have grown and what questions remain for you.

Submit your remaining four weeks of entries and your final paper by August 22.