

Directions: Read one of the following writing assignments (I'll tell you which one) and consider the learning goals that the assignment targets in the area of writing improvement, critical thinking, and content acquisition. Also consider ways that each goal might support or subvert other goals.

Part 1: For the reading selection that you have been assigned only: jot down your answers to each of the questions on page 2 of the handout. You don't need to use complete sentences.

Part 2: Write a coherent paragraph summarizing the conclusions that you drew in answering the questions in Part 1.

If you finish before time is called, read the other assignments and think about the same questions in relation to them.

1) Final Paper: You should discuss the postmodern "dilemma" the church is currently in, as it pertains to worship. Please use examples from the course, citing text books, hand-outs, and videos. You are to write about how the church of the 21<sup>st</sup> century (particularly with regard to the arts) is engaging postmodern culture 1) theologically, 2) methodologically, 3) politically. You are to discuss McLaren's view of the gospel and Gibbs' view of the church and culture. [Course: *Worship Arts in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Greenville College*]

2) Writing Portfolio: A series of 2-3 page **Reflection/Response Essays** to

SPECIFIC readings are required throughout the course; topics are assigned in class. These essays take the place of a Midterm and a Final Examination. All essays should be typed using standard 1" margins, 12pt Times New Roman font; references can be parenthetical (i.e. noted within the body of the paper). If you use material other than our reading material, you need to include footnotes. Essays are due at the beginning of class on the assigned day via Blackboard. Late essays are not normally accepted. If unavoidable circumstances arise, the student may REQUEST consideration for submitting late papers. The instructor reserves the right of decision. Consult [www.mla.org/publications/style](http://www.mla.org/publications/style) for directions on referencing authors and other media and footnotes. [Course: *Global Ethics and the World's Religions, Virginia Commonwealth University*]

3) **Off-campus visit:** One will be to a **place where the student can see an individual of one of the following species:** gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, bonobos, any one of the whale or dolphin species, seals, elephants, or wolves. **These visits must be done in conjunction with one other student.** Upon completion of these visits, **each student will write a two-page paper** (typed, double spaced, 12 point font) that considers three things: (1) the impression the students had of this kind of animal before the visit, with some reflection on how that impression was obtained; (2) the circumstances of the visit (location, conditions); (3) any changed impression of this kind of animal after the visit. [Course: *Religion and Animals, Tufts University*]

(All assignments are taken from the American Academy of Religion's online Syllabus Project.)

**Part 1:**

A) How does the assignment target writing improvement?

B) How does the assignment target critical thinking skills?

C) How does the assignment target acquisition of disciplinary content?

D) Do any learning goals in one of the areas A-C support learning goals in other areas?

E) Do any learning goals in one of the areas A-C subvert learning goals in other areas?

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**Part 2:** Write paragraph summarizing your conclusions here: