

Questions to Consider BEFORE Creating the Format for your Observation Blog:

1. What places, people, events, or activities do you *not pay particular attention to* that can you be more attentive to and more critically *observe*? What do you usually pay attention to or watch or see that you perhaps should pay less attention to?
2. What have you seen or observed in your environment (issues, problems, or controversies) that have troubled, interested, provoked or otherwise affected your perspective—how you see?
3. What can you pay attention to and observe that you have never bothered to observe before?
4. What connections have you made between what you observe or see and your own beliefs/behavior?
5. Are you aware of what or who controls what you watch, look at, or see? Are you an active or passive observer, viewer, watcher, etc.?
6. What are you blind to? What limits your sight, vision, perspective, and ways of seeing, observation?
7. What metaphors of seeing, vision, looking, attention, or awareness in language do we use—do they retain their original meaning?
8. Can you devote time to write entries for & update your Blog regularly? (2 entries per week minimum)

What to Write About In Observation Blog Entries...

- A) Your empirical observations of what you see and the relationship between *how-what-why* you see these sights, objects, people, behaviors, noting how sight & vision work with or independent of the other four senses.
- B) Critically respond to, interpret, & analyze Keyterms-visual metaphors-ideas-arguments from readings, &/or other texts/genres you view or read, i.e. images from news media, film, paintings in a museum, in nature, etc.
- C) Record Freewrites: *answer questions in the Freewrites and reflect more in depth by connecting your ideas and experiences to the ideas, issues, arguments, Keyterms, or specific quotations from the course readings.*
- D) *Retrospectively or reflectively describe or explain* how you see, and how you continue to see changes over the course of this semester—noting what particular ideas, keyterms, readings, thinkers, films, images, etc. has shaped and continues to shape how you see yourself, others, and the words around you.

Frequency, Length, Format: *Minimum of 1-2 posts of 200-250 words/week: no maximum.* You may embed video or upload images, but they must connect to ideas, issues, Keyterms, arguments, etc. from our course readings. You can also create memes, video, podcasts, Buzz Feed lists, cartoons, etc. Your Observation Blog can have a theme or focus, divided into categories of posts, etc. You can assume an acerbic, satirical, or skeptical approach or Stance, or adopt a persona for your Observation Blog, i.e. like Addison & Steele's *Spectator*; however, but keep in mind *who* your audience is if you experiment with personas or tones of voice. If you use copyrighted material, such as a clip from a song or film that you wish to connect to a Keyterm or course text, you must accurately cite & document the source in your blog entry. You can follow each other's blogs, appear as guest bloggers, co-author blog posts, interview people (or each other). Be critically creative!

**The goal is to write with careful attention, precision, and detail, as well as with critical and reflective depth in analysis.* Blog entries are dress rehearsals for ideas & interpretations you can expand into arguments in course essay assignments. So: keep using the language of vision, seeing, observation, looking, and Keyterms from the readings in your Observation Blog posts throughout the semester!

Occasionally, you might feel the compulsion to rant—and you can do so—just try to write with focus, depth, attention to diction, and analytical complexity, while retaining a strong ranting Stance. Or, follow the initial rant with an analysis that connects what you ranted about to course readings, themes, ideas, Keyterms, etc. Lastly, avoid writing about too many issues/ideas in a post, writing superficially, or going off on digressive tangents

Resources: Students have free access to software & apps at OU Create: <https://create.ou.edu/#toggle-id-3>

Due-Dates: Rolling/weekly