

CRITICAL COMMENTARY (DISCOVERY DRAFT)

Overview

Using the writing of others to explore and communicate your own thinking is an important ability to develop, even if you do not plan to write much in academic contexts. Reasoning with and building on the texts of others not only connects your writing to public discourse, bringing your thinking into conversation with the community, it also provides opportunities to develop your thinking on a topic that are not possible in purely expressive writing. Having to interact critically with the writing of others who have addressed your topic sharpens your understanding and focuses your perspective through comparison, and it often can provoke new thinking.

This assignment will focus on growing your skill of using texts in your writing to effectively communicate your own ideas and incorporate them into the discourse of existing knowledge. This writing will make you a more careful thinker and writer now, and it will serve you in future communications you will have to make about your art in formal settings. Commentary is an early building block of argument and other extended forms of reasoning and exploration in writing.

Prompt

Write a critical commentary on a specific idea in John Dewey's Art as Experience, anchored by a close reading of a self selected passage.

Rhetorical Situation

Imagine you are invited to give a talk at a local conference gathering of artists in your field and related industry. The goal of the conference is to gain new insights by reconsidering ideas about aesthetics, aesthetic experience, or art from historical texts like Dewey's *Art as Experience*. Your commentary (on which your talk would be based) will be published as a resource for attendees to inspire their thinking on the topics you address in Dewey. Given this scenario the audience would expect careful attention to the details of the text, including using quotations in the text to ground your comments, and a scholarly approach (avoid slang, contractions, personal criticisms of author or writing style).

Submission

Bring a printed copy of your draft to class. This copy will be used in peer review. Additionally, submit a digital copy for my feedback and evaluation in one of two ways:

1. Share a Google document of your manifesto with tschenold@cornish.edu, enabling comments so I can leave targeted feedback.
2. Email an RTF file as an attachment to tschenold@cornish.edu. Your word processing software will have an ability to "Save As..." to an RTF file. This will ensure that I can handle the file. Please also make sure you name the file "LastnameFirstinitial_CC.rft" (so, if I were submitting it would be "SchenoldT_CC.rft").
3. Due dates:
 - ✓ Discovery Draft 2/12
 - ✓ Working Draft 2/19
 - ✓ Polished Draft 3/5