

Unit 2 reading journals are an opportunity for us to cultivate our critical reading and writing skills by summarizing, responding, and growing our academic vocabulary by engaging with scholarly arguments. Each viewpoint paper allows us to dive deeper into the conversation about what racism looks like in the 21st century. These brief arguments offer a more nuanced understanding of how racism currently operates as well as expose us to some of the different issues that are being discussed by contemporary scholars.

Instructions



Priyamvada Gopal:
“We Can’t Talk about
Racism without
Understanding
Whiteness”

1. In your own words, briefly summarize the main idea and support points of “[We Can’t Talk about Racism without Understanding Whiteness](#) ↓” by Priyamvada Gopal.

2. **Choose to respond to one of the following:**

- How does Gopal's argument compare with Ray and Aja's argument? Identify a specific point of comparison and support your claims with specific examples (e.g. quotations) from the assigned reading.
- Discuss what you find interesting, compelling, or confusing about Gopal's argument. Be specific and provide examples (e.g. quotations) to back up your claims.

3. Complete vocabulary building exercise by doing the following:

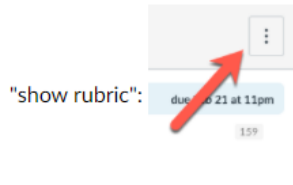
- I. Quote a sentence from the assigned reading that includes a vocabulary word you are not familiar with.
- II. Provide the dictionary definition of your chosen vocabulary word.
- III. Use your chosen vocabulary word in an original sentence.

[Sample Unit 2 Reading Journal](#) ↓

Aim for excellence! These are the criteria for what comprises an "Excellent" rating for a discussion post:

- Submission includes a brief summary of the assigned reading's thesis, or central idea.
- Submission includes a clear analysis, or breakdown, of argumentative tactics that assigned reading uses.
- Submission includes the vocabulary building exercise, which consists of a quoted sentence from assigned reading that includes your chosen vocabulary word, a dictionary definition of chosen vocabulary work, and an original sentence that demonstrates comprehension of the chosen vocabulary word.

To view the grading rubric for this discussion, click on the "more options" icon (3 vertical dots at the top) and then select



Mobile App users: Click Grades, then click into the Discussion. The rubric can then be found on the Grades tab.

Unit 2 Reading Journal Rubric (Gopal)				
Criteria	Ratings			Pts
Instruction #1 Summary	3 pts Complete Submission includes the complete summary of assigned reading. You've done a good job of identifying the main idea of the text and distilling each section to its main point.	1.5 pts Needs Improvement Your summary is incomplete and needs more development.	0 pts No submission No summary of the reading submitted.	3 pts
Instruction #2 Critical Response	3 pts Complete Submission clearly follows instructions and provides a complete response that uses examples from assigned reading(s) to illustrate and support the claims that are being made.	1.5 pts Needs Improvement Submission does not clearly and/or completely respond to the prompt in instruction #2; more development is expected.	0 pts No submission No critical response was submitted.	3 pts
Instruction #3 Vocabulary building exercise	3 pts Complete Submission includes a quoted sentence, dictionary definition, and an original sentence for one vocabulary word from the assigned reading.	1.5 pts Needs Improvement Your submission is missing components of the vocabulary exercise.	0 pts No Submission No vocabulary-building exercise was submitted.	3 pts