

Deliberation – Assignment Sheet

Throughout the rest of the semester, you will participate in a deliberation with a partner. You and your partner will be writing a dialogic, collaborative paper (produced through some electronic means like email or google docs and then recorded as a word document). You will be responding to and engaging with the feedback and responses of your partner and learning to develop, expand, and support your ideas with evidence. I will grade the papers on a scale of 0-100 for each of the participants (in other words each student will receive their own grade, not necessarily the same grade) and the assignment will be worth 20% of your final grade. These are the guidelines for participating in the deliberation/writing the paper:

- 1) Each deliberation must begin with both partners responding to a particular case involving a social movement, a community organization, a moment of political contention, an interaction between friends or enemies, an attempt to seize political power, a debate or a moment of togetherness, or some other example of the link between community and politics. In other words, the deliberation ought to begin with a specific example of something we have talked about in class.
- 2) The first step, therefore, is for one of the partners to send an email to the other partner (or write a first paragraph in a google doc). The first few lines of the email (not the subject line) should be a description of the example to which you have both chosen to respond. After the example is described, the person writing the email should offer their initial 7-10 sentence response to the example. Once the second partner has received the email, the second partner can then write a response to the example and the arguments made by the first partner.
- 3) The next step is for the partner who wrote the original response to respond to what the other partner wrote. Are there points of disagreement, agreement, confusion, etc.? You must respond directly to some of the things that your partner has written. And then the partner will respond. And off we go. Each response should be a minimum of 7 sentences long (there is no maximum). And you must go back and forth at least 8 times. By this I mean that each partner must have written a minimum of 8 paragraphs/email messages.
- 4) These are the rules for writing your posts: First, no ad hominem attacks on your partner. You are to evaluate the substance of what has been said, not the character of the person saying it. Second, on at least four occasions in your posts you must make some reference to the concepts, authors, or arguments made in class – this may include quotations from the readings, etc. Third, on at least four occasions in your posts you must create a hyperlink to some other internet resource that works as evidence for a claim that you are advancing, either another case, example, study, etc. This will create a system of citation whereby both your partner and I can see what sorts of things you have been reading or thinking about in terms of the question posed. You will get more credit for substantive and interesting links and less credit for superfluous and thin links. Fourth, you must write in clear, clean English sentences and in a substantive, argumentative, reasoning style. You are being asked, in your

dialogue, to elaborate, make more complex, and deepen your thinking on one of these issues. I expect to see sophisticated thoughts articulated in robust fashion.

- 5) When the back and forth has exhausted itself you may stop. There is no page limit. The best papers will probably go beyond 8 turns for each partner because the best papers will use the dialogue to get deeper into the question and to bring up/answer/debate other questions. Once, however, you have reached a conclusion create a word document out of the emails, put both partners' names on the document and all of the text that has been written. Make sure it is clear which partner made which statement. In other words, clean it up so that it starts to look like a real paper that I can then grade. At this stage, each partner should also edit what they have written for grammatical and stylistic correctness.