

1. Purposes:

- Writing weekly Reading Memos will give you a head start on thinking about the material, and help you prepare to actively participate in class discussion. In some cases, they will help you to connect the readings and your research project.
- Reading each other's memos will further lay the basis of class discussion, and they will enable me to more effectively plan the class around your interests.
- Writing weekly (argumentative, not descriptive) memos and getting feedback will help you hone your argumentative writing skills.

2. Submission/ Format:

- Each student must complete a minimum of 10 reading memos for the 11 weeks where substantive readings are assigned. If more than 10 memos are submitted, only the 10 highest grades will be recorded. Late memos will not be accepted, and I will not check in about missing memos.
- Please email your memo to the whole class by 2:00 p.m. the day before class (Wednesday). Each student should read all of the memos before coming to class.
- Your reading memo should be between 250 and 300 words. **Provide a word count** at the conclusion of the memo.

3. Content:

- Memos should address only the readings on Social Movements theory/ cases, not the readings designated on the syllabus as "Design/ Methods Readings."
- Your memo needs to respond and make reference to at least one of the readings assigned for the week, but you are advised to at least skim through all of the readings before writing it, so that your memo does not address an issue that is well-covered by another reading. You are welcome to include discussion of videos in those weeks, but every memo should primarily engage with the reading(s).
- These should not be descriptive summaries, but should be analytical and/ or critical, comparing different works (among the readings or to other works you know), or bringing in your own ideas and reactions. Generally, your memo should respond to an argument or arguments made in the readings. You could explain why you disagree with an author, or explain why you think one author is right or another is wrong, or you could explain what you think is missing from the analyses we read. First and foremost, though, in the memo you need to **make your own point**; that is, you need to make an argument about the reading(s).
- Another option for the memo is to apply some of the arguments and concepts from the reading(s) to your research project/ potential thesis topic. You can use the memo to think through the implications the reading(s) have for your own project. In this case, the memo may not have as clear an argumentative structure, but you must still make sure that the memo conveys your grasp of the reading material through the process of applying it to your own case.

4. Feedback/ Evaluation:

- You will be graded on the quality and originality of your argument (or your application of the material to your own project), on the logic you use, on your demonstrated grasp of the concepts and arguments in the readings, and on the quality and conciseness of your prose.
- I will provide detailed feedback on the first reading memo to help us all get on the same page about the format.