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QCQ Discussion Protocol

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ENG111: Introduction to College Writing
What is the QCQ Discussion Protocol?
QCQ = (QUOTE-COMMENT-QUESTION)

When you are assigned a reading as a homework assignment that will be used as an in-class discussion, you will be expected to prepare for the student-led discussion using the three steps listed below known as a QCQ.

How are QCQs graded?

QCQs are graded in two ways. Firstly, you will receive a homework grade (10%) for your physical QCQ submission that is due. Secondly, you will receive a class participation grade (10%) based on your active contribution to the class discussion based on the reading assigned for that day in class. Your homework and classwork discussions will be graded using a rubric and will be evaluated for its content and level of analysis.

How do I complete a QCQ?

Begin reading the assigned text and when you find a **quotation** that either feels important to you or “spoke to you” because of its power, its complexity, its connection to the course theme we have discussed, its writing technique, etc., pause your reading process and:

1. Jot down (or highlight/cut and paste) the exact quotation into your notes and cite the page and paragraph numbers to help you locate it later on.

2. Take a moment to comment on why it seems important to you and jot down a phrase or sentence or two in your notes under the quote. **Your comment should show you have spent time analyzing or pondering it.** Consider one of the following as a guide (*you do not need to answer any/all these, as this is to help you make a comment on a quote if you are not sure what to say*):

- What does this quote make you think of?
- Do you agree or disagree and why?
- How does this quote relate to the course theme or class discussions?
- Any reflections?
- Is it surprising and why or why not?
- Why do you think the author included this?
- What writing technique is the author using here to convey this specific idea?

3. Then jot down a question you have that you’d like to pose to the rest of the class that you would like to bring up during the QCQ in-class discussion. (Think about our course themes), some ideas may be:

- Is there something here you do not understand (words, ideas, etc.)?
- Why did the author choose to use certain words to convey his/her point?
- Does the quotation make you question any ideas or assumptions?
- Does this further strengthen or weaken the author’s position?

****You will need 3 QCQs when completing your homework assignment. That way, you have**

multiple items to contribute to the discussion, or if a point has been debated and discussed already during discussion, you have other ideas to contribute to get your 10% towards participation.

Example of a QCQ:

Quotation#1	Comment#1	Question#1
<p>“Scientists say juggling e-mail, phone calls and other incoming information can change how people think and behave. They say our ability to focus is being undermined by bursts of information.” (page 5, paragraph 2) -Matt Richtel</p>	<p>I think this means that working on multiple tasks at the same time can compromise our ability to focus on just one. This seems true to me. I think Richtel’s use of the word ‘scientists’ is a way for him to convince us as readers of the significance of this issue as people would be more likely to believe an authority figure such as a scientist.</p>	<p>What does that then mean for our culture? What will happen if we can’t focus as well as we used to? What research is he referring to?</p>

Benefits of a QCQ:

By prepping for your QCQ discussions will not only assist you in being prepared for discussion of the text, which in turn, will help boost your homework and classwork participation grade, but when you are finished you will have a record of the most important quotations to you *and* your thoughts on them for a variety of texts, which will help prepare you for your papers.

When you sit down to write an essay using some of these texts, you automatically have a place to begin and have some of the prewriting work already done.

When are QCQs Due?

QCQs are due prior to the start of class. **Late QCQs will NOT be accepted** as these assignments depend on your original thoughts and ideas, thus it must be completed prior to class discussion of the text. If you do not complete the written QCQ homework assignment, you can still participate in class discussion and earn classwork participation credit.

How to maximize your points during a QCQ?

To ensure an effective conversation and discussion in class, we want to have multiple and diverse voices to join. Therefore, everyone will receive an extra ten points during the discussion if every participant in the room speaks at least once. To do this, you may invite your classmates into the conversation politely (this does not mean they need to accept the invitation, but try to invite others who have not spoken yet into the dialogue). Try to contribute using your prepared QCQ.

