

Total possible points: 100; 20% of final grade

CO301(L) - FINAL WRITTEN REFLECTION and PERSONAL MISSION STATEMENT

Overview: As we come to the end of our time together, we have covered a lot! We have gone from writing theory to the Civil Rights Movement to writing for law school and the Warren Court enacting the key legislation of America's past relied upon when ensuring our rights are protected today.

General Expectations: For this assignment, you think about what you learned in the class. Only you and I will read it, unless you choose to show it to someone else. Please think about what you have learned, what you will take away, and where you would like to use this knowledge going forward. Far more important than knowing what to do when you get to law school or into a courtroom is knowing how to take what you have learned forward however you choose to proceed.

Please use your own voice for this assignment... We started reflecting the use of our own language for an audience with the first part of Unit 3, this final reflection acknowledges the "rules" we have learned regarding legal knowledge but, more importantly, asks you to tell me and yourself, in your own words what you learned.

Even the best lawyers are consistently becoming better legal writers. This assignment is meant to affirm how much progress you have made and where you would like to take your knowledge moving forward.

GUIDELINES FOR REFLECTION - please address the points below.

DEFINITION OF JUSTICE (500 words) 35%: When we began on the first day of class, we defined justice in our own words... What definition did you offer then and how it has changed in the time we spent together? How would you define justice to someone you truly care about now? How would you encourage someone to seek it, on behalf of themselves, and others? What are the most important things we can all do, in our writing and communication generally, when it comes the language of the law to promote justice to a broad audience? Finally, why does justice, however you define it, matter to you? Is it worth fighting for and if so, why? On behalf of who? What, if anything, have you learned through your work in this class that helped these ideas evolve for you?

Please use at least 4 examples (evidence) from the class that stood out (e.g. MLK Jr. and Bobby Kennedy; the case law of the Warren Court, the comparisons in a range of political representations of the law when it comes to political violence and free speech).

Please touch on at least one element of each unit, whether a lesson or activity we covered in class, homework, or a major assignment. Think of time you spent reviewing legal texts and understanding complex constitutional principles, from the 1st to the 14th Amendment, to rights upon arrest. You can talk about whatever you would like but be specific about the task/activity, how you engaged with it, how you adjusted your thinking and how you might use that new knowledge going forward.

Personal Mission/Vision Statement (500 words) 40%

Think of the thing you would most like to do to make the world at least a slightly better place. This may seem cliché, but it is important to think of what you would be proud of yourself for doing and who you would be most proud of yourself for becoming. This can deal directly with the concepts of justice and your professional goals or not.

What concerns or doubts do you have? If none, great. Don't be too hard on yourself here, just think about what you may need to work on in the future to become who you described above. How do you hope you will deal with challenges along the way? Please use examples either from your life (how you dealt with something in the past vs. how you will deal with it in the future) and/or examples from class.

Writing about the Law (250 words) 25%: This is a legal writing class. Here I would like you think about the obligations people who write about the law owe to their audiences, including themselves? Why? Is it the same or different than how you felt about writing in the beginning of our course? Why? (use examples). How can you use writing (not only about the law but generally) to help you think, speak, act, and plan going forward? What would you like to differently than you may have at the start of the semester? What has made you realize that?

Final Note: There are no right or wrong answers for this assignment, but you should be able to describe each of the 3 points listed above, with examples, to think about what you will take from this class moving forward.

It has been a pleasure learning more about the language of the law with all of you. Thank you for joining me on the journey!