Example Oral Exam Assignments

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Interview

Each student will sign up for a 15 minute time slot with me for a one-on-one interview. Interviews will take place some time between January 18th and 26th; the above link is already limited to that time frame. Another way to think of this is as an oral examination.

At the interview you will discuss with me:

- (Question 1) What prior knowledge about our course topics do you bring to this class?
- (Question 2) One central question of your choosing. Provide at least one point of evidence from course materials.
- (Question 3) A question or topic of your choosing. Be prepared with whatever you would like to talk about, about anything: about what we are learning in the class; about metacognition or time management; about how the online course/canvas site is working; about what you enjoy outside of class -***anything!***

Study and be prepared. Use this Quick List of Course Readings and Videos. But also relax and have fun. I'm easy to talk to.

And while I invite you to have your camera on, you are not obligated to do so.

Reflective Writing 1

[Revised assignment with an option for an oral exam]

Purpose

The reflection assignments in this course are important points when you can stop, think, and reflect on what you are learning. In 1933 American philosopher, psychologist, and educational reformer John Dewey said: “We do not learn from experience … we learn from reflecting on experience” and since then multiple educational research studies have confirmed this point. The ultimate goal of this course, and of the University in general, is to develop your ability to think critically. I hope that you’ve noticed that I don’t necessarily want you to think like me; I want you to use evidence and credible information to think for yourselves.

Task

You have the option to take this assignment as an oral exam, similar to the Interview in January. If you choose the oral exam option, use this scheduling link to set up a 20 minute slot with me between February 14th and February 22nd. Be ready to answer the three questions below when we meet. Or if you choose the written option, answer the 3 questions below in about 200-250 words each. You do not need to copy and paste the question into your document. You must use doc, docx, or PDF format.

Criteria

- Writing or speaking is clear and persuasive.
- Strong answers will utilize specific evidence from course readings.
- Evidence, in written exam, should be cited by the author’s last name and page number, example: (Vecchiola 13).
    - For sources external to the class, include them on a Works Cited page. In-class sources do not need to be listed on the Works Cited list but should be cited in-text, as noted above.

Questions

1. Write a short note to (or for the oral exam, describe how you would speak with) a friend or family member that you think might resist this course's ideas and frameworks. It can be about the topic of DIY Detroit or about the topic of metacognition. Try to be as clear and concise as possible, while also persuasively presenting evidence in a way that

you think would most win this person over. There is no requirement to share this note with that person, but you could if you would like.

2. You've heard and read Detroiters' stories: in Kinder's book, in "Where the Heart Is," in interviews about Detroit neighborhoods, and more. You also may know other Detroiters' stories from your families or friends or media sources. Pick one story and explain connections from the story to one of our Central Questions. In your arguments, make connections to at least one other reading or video from the class. If you use a story from outside of class be sure to cite it, if choosing the written option, whether it is an interview that you conduct or a media source.

3. Self provisioning and DIY is not just happening for fun or because people think it is hip. There are structural forces that require a DIY response. While it is right to celebrate the resilience and determination of Detroiters, we must also understand the systemic problems that create these situations. Describe one systematic problem that makes DIY necessary in Detroit. Use evidence from at least one reading or video from the class. For the written option, also provide evidence from at least one news article. You can use this search engine of Michigan newspapers (turn on your VPN).