

TRENT UNIVERSITY
ANTHROPOLOGY 2410H
Fall 2015

Reaction Paper Assignment

Due Date: November 19, 2015 by 4PM

Value: 15% of your final mark

Length: 4 pages (not including title page and bibliography), typed double-spaced in 12 pt font with 1 inch margins

DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this assignment is to write a reaction paper in response to an article on a current topic of interest in biological anthropology. It provides an opportunity for you to reflect on and react to an issue in biological anthropology that has relevance to the broader society in which we live. A reaction paper is just what the name suggests - a paper expressing *your personal thoughts/reaction* to a topic or issue. It should therefore be more than just a simple summary of the material; it should contain your own thoughts, opinions, and reactions to the material.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose **ONE** of the following articles to write your reaction paper on. All of them are available on the internet.

1. Brown, Andrew. 2011. Should we clone Neanderthals? The Guardian. June 23, 2011.
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2011/jun/23/clone-neanderthal-technology-ethical>
2. Beck, J. 2013. Bring out your dead: navigating the ethics of displaying human remains in museums. Post on Bone Broke, December 1, 2013.
<https://bonebrokeblog.wordpress.com/2013/12/01/bring-out-your-dead-navigating-the-ethics-of-displaying-bodies-in-museums/>
3. Conlee, KM, Rowan, AN. 2012. The Case for Phasing Out Experiments on Primates. Special Report, Hastings Center Report, Volume 42(6): S31-S34.
<http://animalresearch.thehastingscenter.org/report/the-case-for-phasing-out-experiments-on-primates/>

4. Wurtman, JJ. 2011. Can your genes really make you fat? The Antidepressant Diet, November 7, 2011.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-antidepressant-diet/201111/can-your-genes-really-make-you-fat>

5. Wiles, JR. 2010. Evolution in schools: where's Canada? Education Canada 46(4).

<http://www.cea-ace.ca/sites/cea-ace.ca/files/EdCan-2006-v46-n4-Wiles.pdf>

As you are reading your article, jot down your reactions to the piece. For example, how do you feel about what you are reading? Do you agree or disagree with the author? Why or why not? Have you had any applicable experience? You may, for instance, have discussed this particular topic in one of your other courses. Does the evidence in the article support the statements that the author makes? If several points of view are presented in the article, which do you find most/least favourable? Why?

In addition to describing your reactions to the article, find **two additional references** (peer-reviewed journal articles, books (**NOT** your textbook), or chapters in edited volumes) on the same topic and incorporate these into your paper. For instance, do these articles add to what the author has said? Do they offer alternative points of view or approaches? While you are asked to make reference to material in these two additional articles, remember that the main focus of your thought paper will be the article you have selected from the above list. Please **DO NOT** use web sites (unless you are using peer-reviewed electronic journal articles) or lecture notes.

ORGANIZATION OF THE PAPER:

Your first paragraph should give the title and author of the article you have chosen to read, a brief summary of what you have read, and your thesis statement (i.e., the statement of your reaction/response to the article). The body of your paper should contain paragraphs that provide support for your thesis. Decide on the key points that will focus your ideas. These will be your topic sentences. Develop your ideas by adding examples, quotations, and details to your paragraphs. Do not merely summarize the ideas presented in the article. Your paper should demonstrate evidence that you have thought deeply about the topic and its implications. Be sure to incorporate the other two articles that you have read. Since the paper describes your own reaction, it is appropriate to use the first person ("I", "me", "my", "mine") occasionally.

EVALUATION:

This paper is worth 10% of your final mark. It will be evaluated based on your critical thinking and writing skills, the quality of your argument, the evidence used to support your argument, and your use of the two additional references (see the rubric posted on Blackboard). It should demonstrate that you have thought carefully about the content of the article and have an informed opinion about the topic. It should have a clear topic, point, or message, and your thesis should be clearly presented and convincing. It should be written in a clear and concise manner, and should flow smoothly. It should include a reference page (i.e. bibliography). Your citations and bibliography should conform to the style used in the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. No extensions will be granted unless there are extenuating circumstances (e.g.

illness, death in the family). In such cases, appropriate documentation (e.g. doctor's note, obituary) must be submitted. Late assignments will be penalized 1 mark out of 10 per day (weekends included) and will not be accepted later than one week after the due date.