AE1 checklist

Statements preceded by an asterisk are of particular importance

General formatting

- ❏ Is the text formatted correctly? (double spaced etc.)
- ❏ Does my paper have a proper title?
- ❏ Do I refer to the essays' titles in the introductory paragraph, or whenever I introduce an author's work for the first time?
- ❏ Do I quote the essays correctly throughout the paper? (author's name in parentheses and page number when available?)
- ❏ Do I provide the essays' bibliographic information at the end of my paper? (see the prompt for details)

Introduction

- ❏ Does my paper have a proper introductory paragraph?
- ❏ Does my introductory paragraph give an overview of the issue leading up to the thesis statement?
- ❏ * Does my introductory paragraph contain a thesis statement?
- ❏ * In my thesis statement, am I adding something to the prompt, or just repeating it?
- ❏ * Is the thesis statement the product of a "conversation" between the two authors and myself?

Body paragraphs

(consider the following for **each** body paragraph)

Topic sentences and textual evidence

- ❏ Does each body paragraph conforms to the structure we highlighted in class?
  In particular:
- ❏ What is the overarching claim of the paragraph?
- ❏ Is it expressed in a topic sentence? (If not please write a topic sentence that adequately represents the content to the paragraph.)
- ❏ Does the topic sentence refer to the thesis?
- ❏ * Does the paragraph display specific textual evidence from **both essays**? (If not please find evidence from the other, missing, essay that you can connect to the textual evidence you already found.)
- ❏ * Is the evidence merely factual or is it conceptually complex? ("idea-rich evidence")
- ❏ Is the evidence contextualized? That is, is it briefly introduced by a sentence providing some context?

Analysis

- ❏ * Is the evidence followed by an analysis that incorporates close reading?
- ❏ * Have I found the keywords that support the connection between the two instances of textual evidence? (see above the point about close reading)
- ❏ * Have I established an interpretive connection between the two examples of textual evidence from the two authors?
    - ❏ For example, are there similarities? Differences? Contrasts?
    - ❏ Can I use a concept from one author to investigate a phenomenon described by the other author and shed light on it?
    - ❏ Do I respond to the evidence from the two authors fairly and directly?
- ❏ Do I use the textual evidence and the connections established between the two authors to come to an original insight?
- ❏ Do I avoid generalizations and rushing to conclusions? Am I aware of the open-endedness/tentativeness of my own argument, as it emerges from the conversation with the two authors?
- ❏ Is there a proper concluding sentence at the end of the paragraph, summarizing the evidence and possibly introducing the next paragraph?

Concluding paragraph

- ❏ Is there a concluding paragraph, that restates and reinforces the thesis statement in light of the evidence presented throughout the essay?

Thesis (argument)

- ❏ * Do I state my thesis in the opening of the essay? Is there a thesis in the essay at all, or does the draft contain mostly summary?
- ❏ Is the argument original (i.e. different from what Tolentino/Ho has said)?
- ❏ Is the argument complex (i.e. more than an obvious, immediate reaction)?
- ❏ Is the argument specific (i.e. referring to a specific concept from the text, rather than a vague generalization)?
- ❏ Does my thesis evolve throughout the paper? Do I use evidence to refine the thesis, rather than just super/reinforce it in a repetitive way?

Overall significance:

- ❏ * Do I address the question “so what?” Do I make an effort to communicate “why” their observations and interpretations of the text matter?