FINAL INTERPRETATIVE EXERCISE

END OF THE SEMESTER

- AE4 final draft due tomorrow
- Then only FIE left!
- About 700 words
- Rough draft due Sunday
- Final draft due Wednesday
- Today: introduction to FIE
- Thursday: writing and revising the first draft
- Next Tuesday: peer review
- Next Thursday: final discussion
- Also next week: complete past activities
- AE4 feedback, grades and course grades released on Monday December 14th
- Final office hours on Tuesday December 15th

FINAL INTERPRETATIVE EXERCISE (FIE)

- Similar to TAE
- A reflection of the “present moment,” as either a personal or collective experience
- Free to pick the reading you would like to relate to
- About 700 words in lenght

NOTES

- It can be personal, but does not have to
- Conversely, “collective” may have different meanings
- It could refer to your family, or to the experience of responding to COVID as a town or as a society, or to some social event that has happened recently like the protests for racial justice.
- Is the emphasis on understanding the present moment using the frame provided by the reading, or in understanding the reading using the present moment as seen through the frame?
- The emphasis is on both!
- “Carefully synthesizes textual insights with “real-world” experience, enriching understanding of both”

PROMPT

- Fundamental to Expository Writing is the understanding that writing is an instrument of thought and, as Kurt Spellmeyer and Richard Miller note in the “Preface” to The New Humanities Reader, the “movement from the known to the unknown is the essence of all learning” (xix). This semester has required us all to move “from the known to the unknown” like never before. What, then, might we learn about the “unknown” of the present moment, given the writing you’ve done throughout the course? How might the thinking we’ve done together in Expos this semester help us understand this unprecedented time? While you are required to engage substantively with at least one major concept from a text, this is a more personal, more open assignment. Moments of self-reference, anecdotes, and personal reflection are welcome in this assignment when you put them in relationship to class concepts.

PROMPT

- For our final assignment, choose a concept from one of this semester's essays and use it as a "lens" or "frame" to interpret either your current experience or our collective life. I'm choosing collective as a purposely broad term, and it will be your work to create its boundaries. The goal here is to extend the critical thinking work you have done in Expos beyond the confines of our Zoom classroom.
- I have listed below a concept from each reading that you may use as a starting place, but you may also pick a different one that has particularly resonated with your experience.

PROMPT

- Tolentino's "optimizing" mindset
- Ho's description of Wall Street's self-reinforcing cult of "impressiveness"
- Foer's discussion of "radical transparency"
- Watters' idea of "explanatory models" that define (and may also constraint) how we see the world and how we react to it
- Armstrong discussion of religion as a "daily practice" that's not dogmatic but moral.