

Writing 60
Argument and Research

Week 1a

About

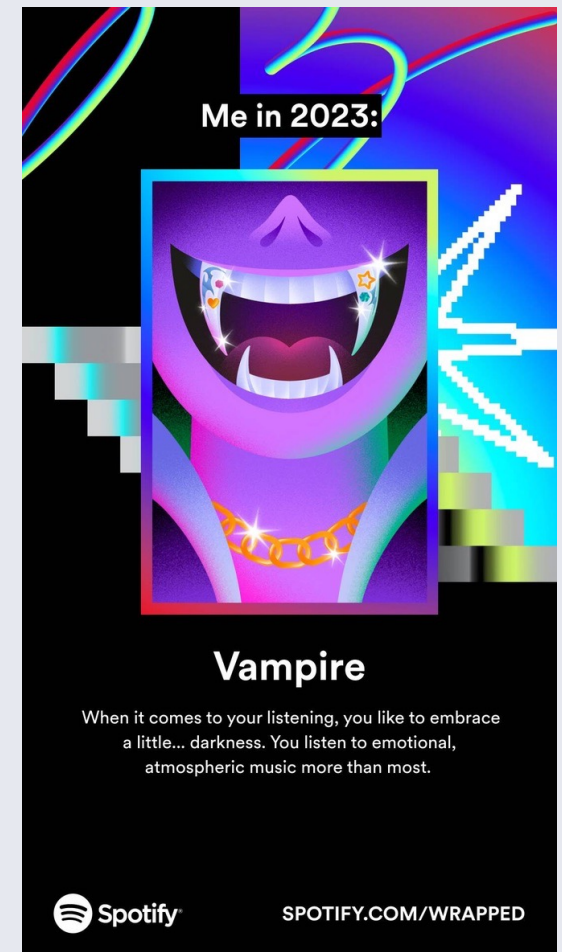
My name is Louis Doulas
I'm a PhD candidate in Philosophy.

My research is mainly in the
history of analytic philosophy.
(This is what my dissertation is on.)

I've been at UCI since 2018.
I graduate in June.

Before UCI, I lived in Boston for 3 years
and NYC for 4 years.

I was born and raised in Chicago.



Me in 2023:

Vampire

When it comes to your listening, you like to embrace a little... darkness. You listen to emotional, atmospheric music more than most.

Spotify SPOTIFY.COM/WRAPPED

The image shows a Spotify Wrapped 2023 card. At the top, it says 'Me in 2023:'. Below that is a central image of a vampire's face with a wide, toothy grin, wearing a gold chain necklace. The background is black with colorful, glowing lines and a pixelated effect. At the bottom, the Spotify logo and the URL 'SPOTIFY.COM/WRAPPED' are visible.

Email

ldouglas@uci.edu

Weekdays: 24-48 hours response time
Weekends: response by Monday

Office Hours

My office hours are *by appointment only*.

Email me and we can schedule a time to
Zoom!

This course aims to do several things.

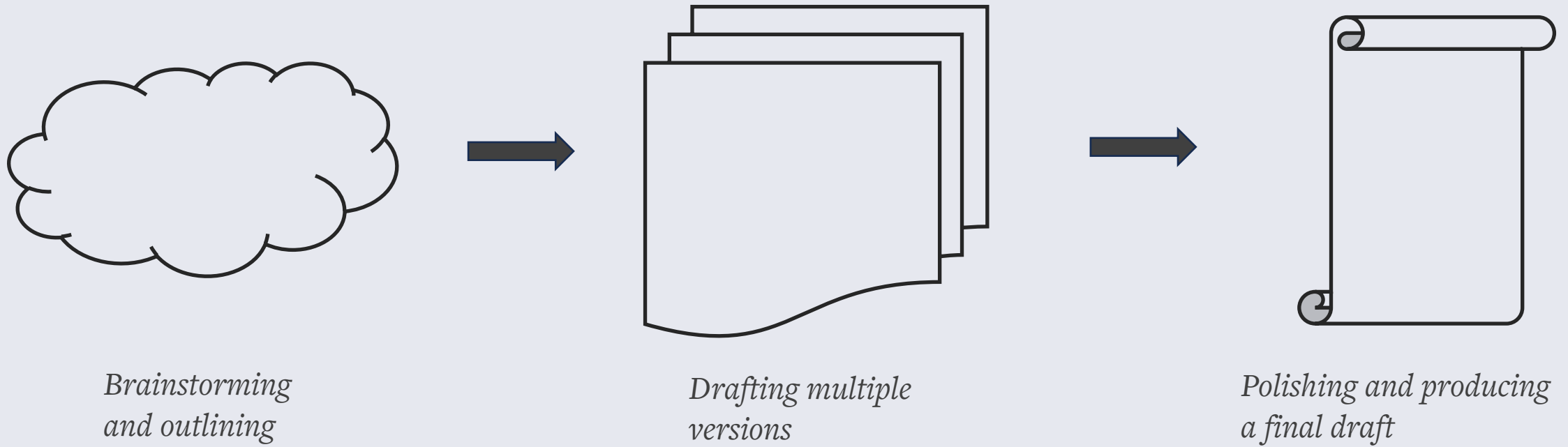
How to conduct
research and
evaluate and use
various types of
evidence.

How to deepen
your understanding
of rhetoric and
communication.

How to engage
effectively in the
university
community and in
your chosen
discipline.

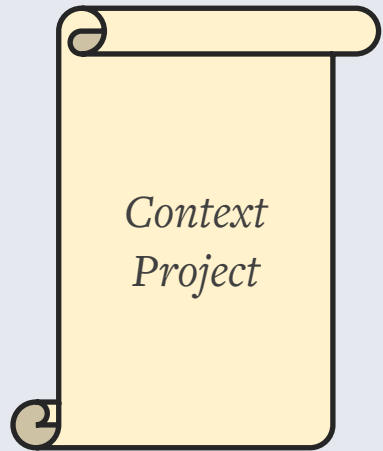
The reading, composing, and researching
practices you'll learn here will help you
succeed in your other courses!

This course is *process* based.



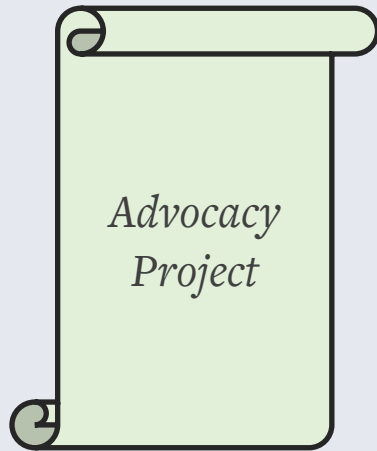
Each of the major assignments will have a sequence of process assignments leading up to the final draft.

The Three Main Assignments



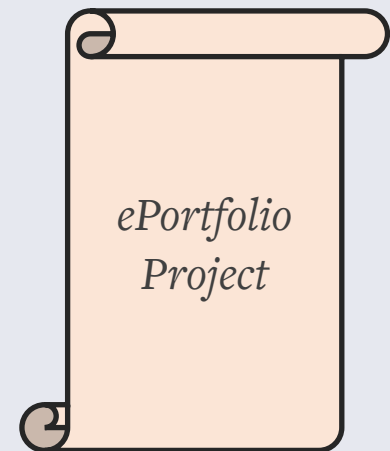
*Context
Project*

35%



*Advocacy
Project*

40%



*ePortfolio
Project*

20%

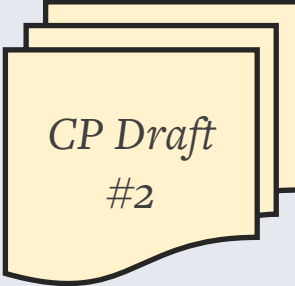
The Three Main Assignments — A Closer Look



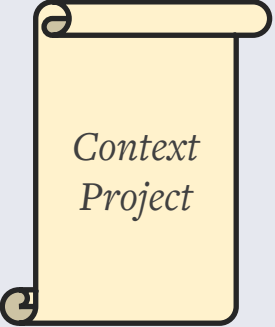
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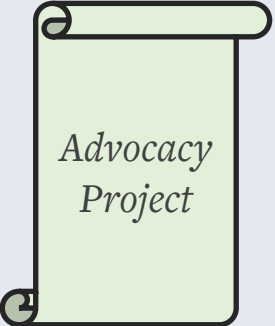
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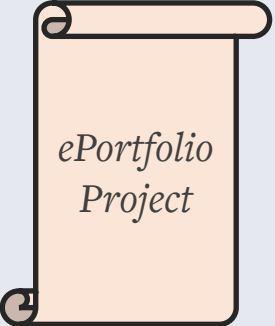
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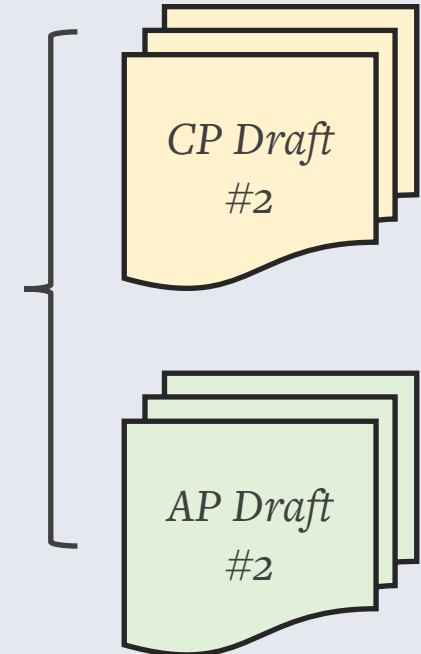
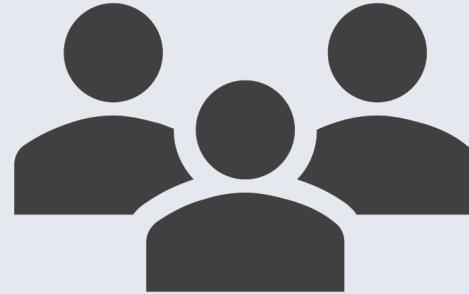
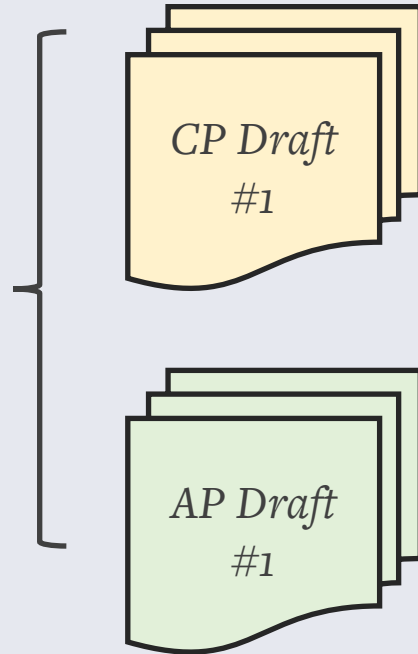


40%



20%

Feedback and Peer Review



I will provide feedback on the *first* drafts of your CP and AP projects.

Your *peers* will provide feedback on the *second* drafts of your CP and AP projects.

Revision is central to writing.
Writers work *iteratively* — writing isn't one of those things that is 'right' the first time.

Peer review is an essential component of WR 60.
It's the process by which scholars in the field publish and how managers and co-workers provide feedback.

It's important that we normalize the revision process and get comfortable with sharing our work in progress with our peers — this will help all of us become better thinkers, writers, and researchers!

Participation *and* Attendance



Participation counts for 5% of your grade.

- Raising questions in class.
- Contributing to group discussions.
- Scheduling office hours.



Attending class is really important!

Composition considers more than 2 absences excessive. If you miss more than 3 classes, you may be asked to drop the class.

Readings

There are reading assignments starting Week 1 to Week 7.

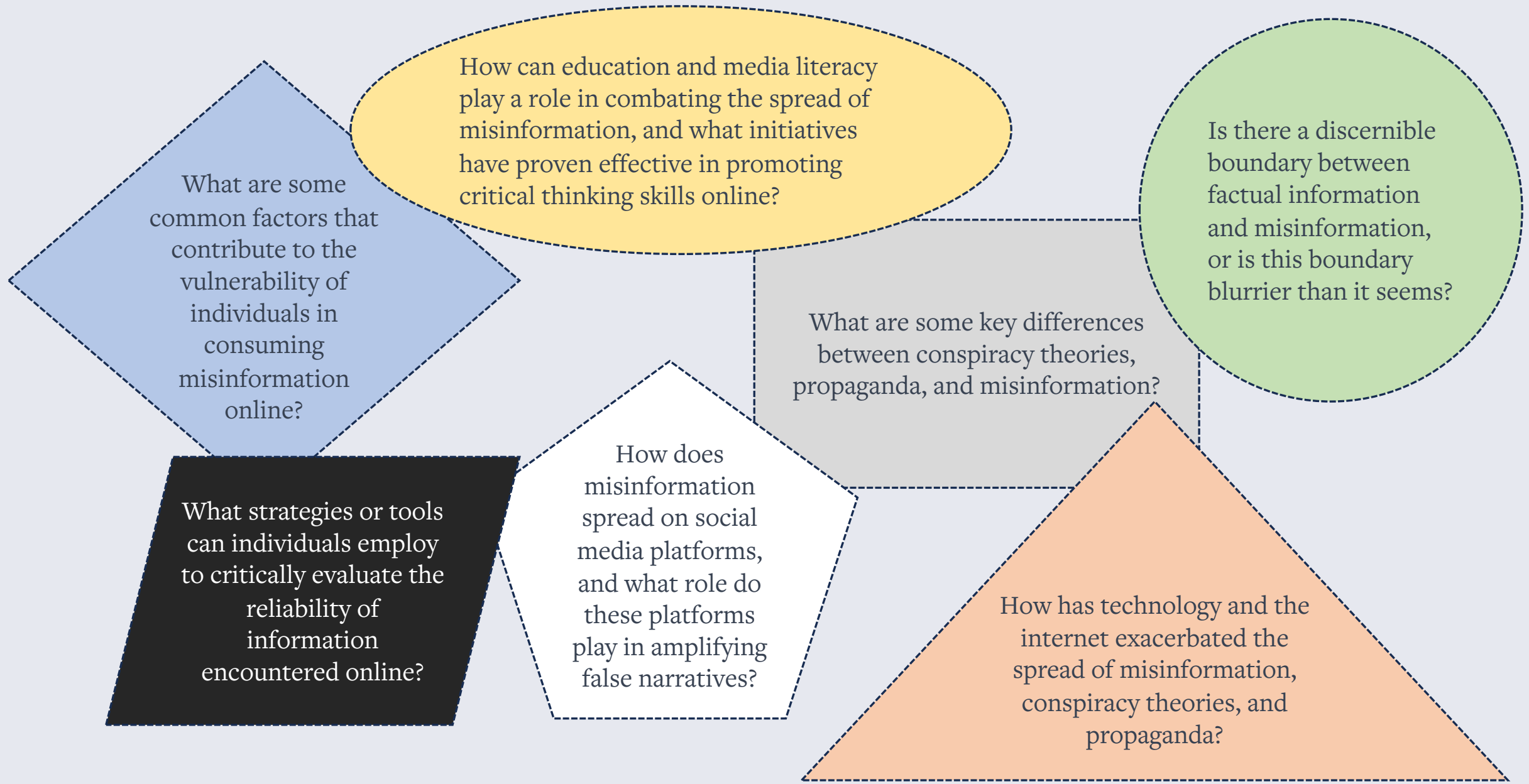
The ‘readings’ range from *peer-reviewed articles* to *think pieces* to *podcasts* to *YouTube videos*.

Because we will be focused on the mechanics of the research and writing practice, we won’t always — not even *usually* — cover the readings in class.

It is your job to keep up with them.

Conspiracy, Propaganda, and Misinformation





What are some common factors that contribute to the vulnerability of individuals in consuming misinformation online?

How can education and media literacy play a role in combating the spread of misinformation, and what initiatives have proven effective in promoting critical thinking skills online?

Is there a discernible boundary between factual information and misinformation, or is this boundary blurrier than it seems?

What strategies or tools can individuals employ to critically evaluate the reliability of information encountered online?

How does misinformation spread on social media platforms, and what role do these platforms play in amplifying false narratives?

What are some key differences between conspiracy theories, propaganda, and misinformation?

How has technology and the internet exacerbated the spread of misinformation, conspiracy theories, and propaganda?

The goal of the readings will be to help you better understand these issues and the specific responses and solutions being proposed to ameliorate the harms caused by them — especially those harms suffered by minority and/or subjugated communities.

Overall, this course will help you develop a *perspective* on these issues and show how you can critically and effectively engage this perspective through writing and research.

How to Succeed in this Course

This course is all about the *process*.

I know there's a lot of moving pieces here and it can be overwhelming. But it's crucial that you don't fall behind!

Each assignment you complete ultimately contributes to your final project. *Get used to the idea of working on one long project for the entire quarter.*

I'm here to help guide you through this process and make sure that we all stay on track.

Icebreaker



- 1) Name?
- 2) Where are you from?
- 3) What's the latest piece of media you've consumed?
(E.g., Netflix show, YouTube clip, Instagram reel, song, etc.)