

AI-Mediated Reading Response

Over the semester, you will submit a number of responses to material covered in the course. This is designed to be a flexible assignment that you can tailor to your schedule and interests.

The purpose of this assignment is to deepen your understanding of a selected philosophy article through a conversational exchange with an AI chatbot. This exercise aims to encourage critical thinking, articulate analysis, and foster a clearer comprehension of philosophical concepts.

Assignment Steps

Step 1: Reading and Annotation

- Read the article thoroughly.
- Annotate key points, arguments, and any areas of confusion or interest.

Step 2: Initial Response (200–300 words)

- Write 200–300 words summarising the main arguments and concepts from the article.
- Identify any questions, concerns, or points that require clarification.

Step 3: Interactive Discussion

- Engage in a conversation with an AI chatbot regarding the article. Pose questions, seek clarification, and explore your own interpretations.
- Aim for a dynamic and exploratory conversation rather than a rigid Q&A format.
- Use the chatbot's responses to guide further exploration of the article.

Step 4: Reflective Response (200–300 words)

- Write a reflective response of 200–300 words. This response has two interrelated purposes:
 - To summarise what you came to understand about the article through the conversation: areas of newfound clarity, evolving thoughts, lingering questions.
 - To reflect on *the conversation itself* as a way of engaging with the material. Where did it advance your understanding, and how? Where did it mislead you, flatten the argument, or take you down an unproductive path? What kinds of questions or prompts proved productive, and which didn't? Where did you have to push back on what the chatbot offered?

The second of these is at least as important as the first. The point of the assignment is not only to understand the article better but to develop a self-aware sense of what conversation with an AI chatbot is – and isn't – good for.

Submission Guidelines

All of the following should be combined into a single document for submission:

1. Your initial response (Step 2).
2. A transcript of the interactive discussion (Step 3).
3. Your reflective response (Step 4).

Tips for Getting the Most Out of the Assignment

- *Active Reading:* Annotate as you read. Highlight key passages, jot down questions, and note your reactions.
- *Organise Your Thoughts:* Prior to the interactive discussion, organise your initial thoughts and questions for a more focused conversation.
- *Engage in a Conversation:* Treat the interaction with the chatbot as a genuine conversation. Follow up on responses and delve deeper into areas of interest.
- *Reflect Thoughtfully:* After the conversation, take time to reflect on the insights gained. Consider how your understanding has evolved.
- *Use the Chatbot's Responses as a Springboard:* Don't hesitate to seek clarification on points that remain unclear.
- *Consider Diverse Perspectives:* Think critically about different perspectives presented during the conversation and how they may contribute to your understanding.

It is essential that the conversation with the chatbot is serious and detailed. It is clear where genuine effort has been made to use the conversation to deepen understanding, and when it is being treated in a cursory way, as an exercise to be got through as quickly as possible; or where the chatbot has been used as a mere “question-and-answer machine.” An assignment conducted in the latter way will not meet the requirements of the assignment.