### Critical Reflection and Argument

**Argument**
- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of at least three scholarly sources
- Synthesize material effectively and concisely
- Appropriate level of detail
- More analysis than description
- Focus on 1-3 points and elaborate on them fully
- Claims are supported by evidence and thoughtful reflection (move past the emotional into the reflective)
- Research is supplemented by your own ideas

**Content**
- Clearly present the political significance of the argument being made
- Describe the world view or context for the argument
- If writing on an artistic representation, ensure that your writing is not a review
- Explore how the texts/representations you are engaging are presented

### Structure and Organization

- Clearly defined question with a response suggested by a strong thesis statement
- Well structured: thesis statement is well supported throughout the essay by well developed points
- Introduction is convincing and sets up the problem the paper takes up
- Conclusion reinforces the argument in the body of the paper and explains why it is significant and for whom
- Cohesive paragraphs, with clear topic sentences
- Essay is focused and stays on topic

### Writing and Citation

- Coherent flow and stylistically polished
- Attention to the tone and argument you’re making
- Avoid overly casual tone
- Avoid generalizations and repetitions of ideas
- Concise
- Refrain from jargon and clichés
- Correct use of style and citations (Chicago, MLA, etc)
- Quotations are introduced, explained effectively, and well integrated into the body of the paper
- Appropriate length (about 2500 words, 10-12 pages double-spaced)
- No obvious spelling or grammar errors

### Comments:

Grade: