

# Lesson Leader

10 points. May be repeated.

Each student may, individually or in a pair, act as the discussion leader for a course resource, (1) defining lesson **objectives**; (2) **presenting** a précis and clarifying key concepts (10 minutes); (3) conceiving and leading the class in an **activity** designed to extend or deepen our discussion and understanding of the resource (20 minutes); (4) **assessing** learning; and (5) submitting a 1 page **reflection** on the experience of leading discussion (one reflection for each time, please). The lesson leaders will be judged on clearly and concisely reflecting the argument and evidence of the resource and on the effectiveness of the activity in engaging the class in the topic. Students often find it useful to check in with me at the early stages of planning this assignment.

Questions to cover in précis:

- Who is the author? What is their claim to expertise?
- What question is the author trying to answer by creating this piece?
- What is the author's answer to that question, and if relevant, what key ideas help them to explain that answer?
- What kinds of evidence does the author use to support their answer?
- How does the author structure the paper in order to present this evidence?
- What other viewpoints or alternative answers to the question does the author discuss and why do they prefer their answer over the alternatives?

Considerations for presentations:

- Select activities that engage students in different ways. A classic discussion-based technique is “think-pair-share”: give students a question to think about individually, then discuss in small groups, and finally share in the larger group. This encourages participation by everyone, in a form that may be more comfortable for some.

Other great “Activity” examples:

- [Melissa Jacquart -- Active Learning Activities](#)
- [Jennifer Barnett - Active Learning Strategies](#)
- Use media. We have a lot of time to work with. Hollywood is prolific. YouTube moreso. Take advantage! Just be sure to preface your use of media with guiding questions or prompts, and then follow up with discussion afterward.