

In preparation for your reading responses, you will need to read the course texts with a critical eye. This requires you to analyze both the interventions of the text as well as its shortcomings.

Here are some questions that can serve as a starting point:

- 1) What texts/week did you choose and why?
- 2) What is the goal of the text? To show/analyze/problematize/ask/engage with/demonstrate/intervene into/contribute to what?
- 3) What is the main argument that the author wants to explore or demonstrate to the reader? It might be best to find a quote that you find to be helpful in pinpointing the main argument.
- 4) What is the author using as data or a starting point?
- 5) What are the supporting arguments and materials the author relies on?
- 6) What kind of assumptions is the author trying to question and under which assumptions is the author operating? In other words, what does the author find to be the problem and what do they rely on as being natural/not problematic?
- 7) What is the position of the author? What context is the author engaging with? With kind of issues can this result in? Think about objectivity/subjectivity and insider/outsider perspective.
- 8) How successful or unsuccessful is the author in articulating and supporting their claims?
- 9) What were parts of the discussion in the text that you found particularly engaging/interesting/insightful and on the other hand, problematic/iterative/unfounded?
- 10) What did you agree with and what did you find to be not so persuasive?
- 11) How does this relate to the specific class meeting topic? How does it relate to other texts?
- 12) Find overlapping arguments with other texts from the class topic as well as those parts in which the text diverge one from the other.
- 13) How do these texts together, or competing, contribute to class discussions?
- 14) How do you think these text affect the way you were thinking about medical anthropology and this particular topic?
- 15) What is the larger political/ethical/societal context that these texts are in conversation with?
- 16) What kind of questions are you left with after reading the text?

As a guide, although you will see that sometimes you will not be able to follow this “formula,” try to respond to questions 1-6 for, ideally, 3 texts of the week, on one page. On the second page, try to respond to questions 7-12 in a more comparative tone (try to refer to all the texts you are analysing with a contrasting and correlating agenda). Spend approx half a page responding to questions 13-16.

Keep in mind that this list of questions and guides is not complete, but also not set in stone. It should serve as a guide on what kind of content and engagement with the materials we are expecting from you. It should also help you to avoid mere summarizing the texts so that you can reach a more nuanced understanding of their goals and interventions. Think ahead - remember that these are due on the week that the readings will be discussed in class, so try to meet with your TA before they are due and clarify anything you might find confusing in the text or the assignment itself.