

Religion and Politics (Religious Studies 3CC3 / Political Science 3LA3) – Winter 2014

TEXT SUMMARY 2

Assignment due in class on January 30* from students who did not complete Text Summary 1

*As noted on the course syllabus: Text Summary assignments are designed to help you prepare the reading assignment for a particular class, in conjunction with your participation in that class. Thus, these assignments may only be submitted in class on the days they are due. If you have to miss that day's class, please contact the instructor to make alternate arrangements.

1. In completing this Text Summary assignment, please follow the guidelines at:

- Hugo Bedau, *Thinking and Writing About Philosophy*, 2nd ed., pp. 7-10 top [selection in coursepack/book on reserve], on writing summaries to understand reading
- Gordon Harvey, *Writing with Sources*, pp. 15-19 [selection in coursepack/book on reserve/purchase book], on quoting, especially item (f) on p. 17, on "reasons to quote a source directly."

You might also find it helpful to have a look at:

- *They Say/I Say*, pp. 38-40 [selection in coursepack/book on reserve], on "signal verbs"

2. Following the guidance referenced above and given in class and tutorial on January 16, please prepare a written summary (1-1.5 pages** long, approximately 500 words) of:

John Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*: p. 38 ("Having thus at length freed...") - p. 43 near the bottom ("...in one place more than another")

(Please be sure to use the same print editions of the texts as those selected for this course, in order to ensure correct page references.)

Explanatory Note: On pp. 39-40, Locke discusses forms of worship that are "indifferent." This refers to the idea that (some?) ceremonies and rituals are of lesser importance (i.e., "indifferent") to whatever is deemed to be essential to (Christian) religion.

Use the summary to lay out what the text says, with a focus on tracing the main argument(s) in the text selection and highlighting key concepts in order to explain what they mean.

All your claims should be backed up with references that allow your reader to see what they are based on in the text; for this purpose, please use in-text parenthetical page references—for an example of these, see Harvey, *Writing with Sources*, p. 51, under "MLA Basic Rules."

In your summary please include at least one quoted phrase (e.g., embedded into a sentence of your own) that helps you convey a point more effectively or vividly (see e.g., the list of reasons to quote in Harvey, p. 17 item (f)). Since this summary is short, quote only a phrase or a short sentence at a time, and be sure to make clear in your own words what the quoted phrase/sentence is supposed to illustrate.

Note: Since this is your first reading of this text, and since we have not yet discussed it in class, the summary assignment is simply a first effort at figuring out what it says, and doing it will help you get the most of our in-class work on the reading. Your fuller understanding will develop in the course of our class meetings, and with successive re-readings.

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**Please print your assignment double-spaced and with one-inch margins, using an 11- or 12-point font. Please number and staple the pages you hand in.

Please indicate the total word count at the end of your assignment.

Please keep a copy of your summary to refer to in our class discussions of Locke over the next few meetings.

posted/distributed January 23, 2014

socserv.socsci.mcmaster.ca/danahol/3CC3/summary2.pdf