

Religion and Politics (Religious Studies 3CC3 / Political Science 3LA3) – Winter 2015

TEXT SUMMARY 2

Assignment due in class on January 26 from students who did not hand in Text Summary 1

This assignment consists of attendance of the full class session on January 26, plus completing the written assignment below, to be submitted in class on January 26 only.

(*Rationale:* Text Summary assignments are designed to help you prepare the reading assignment for a particular class meeting, in conjunction with your participation in that class meeting, when we go over the reading selection together.)

1.

Before beginning the writing assignment, please read

- the selections from John Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*, assigned for Jan. 19 and Jan. 26 (Our work in class on Jan. 19 will also help you prepare.)
- Hugo Bedau, *Thinking and Writing About Philosophy*, 2nd ed., pp. 7–10 top [coursepack], on writing summaries to understand reading
- Gordon Harvey, *Writing with Sources* [coursepack], pp. 15–19, 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* [coursepack], pp. 38–40, on "signal verbs"

(We discussed the Text Summary assignment in class on January 12; please let Dr. Hollander know if any questions remain.)

2.

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")

(Be sure to use the print editions of the texts selected for this course, i.e., in this case the [Hackett edition of Locke's Letter](#), available for purchase at The Campus Store.)

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.

Detailed Instructions:

- The purpose of the summary is to lay out what the text says, in roughly the order in which it is said, taking care to mention the aspects that you think are most important or interesting.
- Your summary should highlight key concepts and describe the main argument(s). (Please draw on what you learned in the January 12 tutorial meeting about "describing arguments.")

- Your observations about the text should be backed up with references that allow your reader to see what they are based on; 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."
- Please include in your summary 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.
- Please print your assignment double-spaced and with one-inch margins, using an 11–12-point font.
- Please number and staple the pages you hand in.
- Please indicate the total word count at the end.

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 it. The assignment is not evaluated for whether it demonstrates a good understanding of the reading, but for evidence of your having worked in detail to understand the reading. Your fuller understanding will develop in the course of our class meetings, and with successive re-readings.

Plagiarism Warning: This assignment is designed to be completed by means of independent work on Locke's *Letter Concerning Toleration*, aided by the guidance you have received in class/tutorial and by consulting the instructor and the TA: We are always available to discuss the questions you encounter as you read and re-read the texts for this class. It is neither necessary nor desirable that you consult outside sources in order to complete this assignment. Please remember that unacknowledged use of such sources constitutes plagiarism and is a violation of the university's [Academic Integrity policy](#).

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

posted/distributed January 19, 2015

socserv.socsci.mcmaster.ca/danahol/3cc3/summary2.pdf