

## Religion and Politics (Religious Studies 3CC3 / Political Science 3LA3) – Fall 2020

### TEXT SUMMARY 2

**Assignment due by October 5, 6 p.m. (Toronto time) in the assignment folder on Avenue from students who did not complete Text Summary 1.**

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, during which we will go over the reading selection together. Completing this assignment will thus be of maximum benefit to you if you take part in the full October 5 class session.

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1.

Before beginning the writing assignment, please read:

- John Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*, trans. William Popple (1689), ed. James H. Tully (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1983), 38 (“Having thus at length freed...”) – 58 [purchase book]
- 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*: **either** 2nd ed., pp. 15–19 [coursepack], on quoting, especially p. 17 item (f): “reasons to quote a source directly” **or** 3rd ed. [version available for purchase]: material is on pp. 17–22, and p. 21 item (f).

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

- *They Say/I Say*, pp. 38–40 [coursepack], on “signal verbs”

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”)

**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.

(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.)

### Detailed Instructions:

The summary should lay out what the text says, in roughly the order in which it is said, but with a focus on the aspects that you think are most important or interesting. Given the brevity of the assignment, this means that there are some aspects you will want to discuss in some detail, others you will choose to mention briefly, and still others that you won't want to mention at all.

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Your summary should highlight key terms and describe the main argument(s). (Please draw on what you learned at the September 21 Zoom session 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, as in this sample sentence:

Locke underscores that acts of violence are sometimes perpetrated “upon pretence of Religion” (23).

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, 2nd ed., p. 17 item (f)/3rd ed., p. 21 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 is supposed to illustrate.

Please print your assignment to PDF, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, using an 11–12-point font, and with no cover sheet. Please write “Text Summary 2” at the top, and 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 have a copy of your assignment handy to refer to during our online session.*

**posted September 16, 2020**

<https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/danahol/3CC3/summary2.pdf>