

# Practice Essay Instructions

## ENGL1201

*Ah. You've heard all this before, haven't you. You may have already leaned over to a friend and whispered, Platitude. Platitude, platitude, platitude.*

*Thomas King the duck-billed platitude.*

### Description

This short essay wants you to practice creating an argument *for* and *against* a certain topic. You will be comparing three texts to create this argument. The three texts are:

1. The Government of Canada's "Delivering on Truth & Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action" website
2. CBC News' "Beyond 94: Truth and Reconciliation in Canada" website
3. Yellowhead Institute's "Calls to Action Accountability: A Status Update on Reconciliation" article

See next page for detailed directions.

### Directions

The context for your essay is the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 94 Calls to Action, so choose one of the four below Calls to get started:

- A. Call to Action 2 (Child Welfare)
- B. Call to Action 23 (Health)
- C. Call to Action 35 (Justice)
- D. Call to Action 50 (Reconciliation)

Your completed essay will have **three complete paragraphs**:

**In your first paragraph**, provide a short introduction and summary to your chosen Call to Action. Define any terms that you may be unfamiliar with. Consider what action is required to consider this Call to Action "complete".

**In your second paragraph**, read all three of the above texts and compare their content. All three of these texts are following the progress on the TRC's Calls to Action, so they should be the same, but they are not. What are their differences?

**In your third paragraph**, consider your above comparison to make your final argument, which will answer the question: which text is the clearest to you? In this final paragraph, you will need to say *why* you think your choice is correct and why the other two texts are *less* clear than the one you chose.

Organize your writing using APA formatting guidelines, including in-text citations, end reference entries, and document formatting.

### Learning Outcomes.

This assignment will test your ability to:

- Read, analyze, and summarize information from several different sources
- Create an original argument that synthesizes the product of an original analysis
- Actively consider the motivations and goals of a source behind a text
- Follow APA format and documentation guidelines

### Logistics.

Length: approximately 3 written pages, split between three paragraphs.

Format: APA, Times New Roman 12pt. font *or* Arial 11pt. font.

Weight: 20%

### Feedback Criteria

This essay is worth 20% of your final grade. Feedback will be provided using the below rubric and parameters:

- A. Summary paragraph: have you chosen one Call to Action and summarized its content? Have you defined any unclear terms or concepts found in the Call to Action? Have you provided information about the Call to Action that is relevant to the rest of the essay?
- B. Analysis: have you compared all three texts, including their content, word choices, and accuracy? Is that comparison equally balanced between all three texts?
- C. Conclusion: do you have a clear argument for the clearest text? Is that argument explained using information from your analysis, and how?
- D. APA Style: do you have in-text citations (quotes and/or paraphrases), and are they formatted using APA Style guidelines? Do you have a reference list with end reference entries, and are they formatted using APA Style Guidelines? Is your document formatted using APA Style guidelines, according to the BVC Library APA Guide?

Criteria	Evaluation		
Summary Paragraph	<i>Strong</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Weak</i>
Analysis	<i>Strong</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Weak</i>
Conclusion/Argument	<i>Strong</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Weak</i>
APA Style	<i>Strong</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Weak</i>

Marks for this essay will be provided in a number grade out of 40 and a letter grade. See the course outline for information about number and letter grade formulae.