

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

HZT4U1

### ***The Matrix* Small Group Readings**

The film *The Matrix* offers many opportunities for philosophical investigation. The film explores metaphysical questions of ontology and determinism; epistemological questions regarding truth; and ethical questions about the value of experience. You will investigate a specific question as it relates to *The Matrix*. You will be assigned a reading and will be placed in a discussion group. Upon meeting with your group, you will present your reading to your group members and lead a discussion based on your respective article.

Your assignment is explained as follows.

- 1) You will be assigned one of the following readings:

*Skepticism, Morality and the Matrix* by G. J. Erion and Barry Smith  
*The Metaphysics of the Matrix* by Jorge J.E. Gracia and Jonathan J. Sanford  
*The Machine-Made Ghost* by Jason Holt  
*Neo-Materialism and the Death of the Subject* by Daniel Barwick  
*Fate, Freedom and Foreknowledge* by Theodore Schick Jr.

- 2) After you have thoroughly read your piece, you will create a clear and organized summary (two pages) for distribution to a small group of peers. The handout will contain:
  - a. An introduction: Provide a general overview of the essay.
  - b. The thesis of the article. What is the paper trying to say?
  - c. The support for this thesis. What are the arguments for this point?
  - d. Major conclusions. What conclusions can be made from this argument?
  - e. Discussion questions and prompts for your group discussion.

Please note that your content and layout should reflect a sense of audience: the handout should be user friendly with appropriate layout/spacing; font choice should be easy to read and size should be 12 pt; graphics may be used. The header should include your name, date, title of reading and course code.

- 3) After you have completed your reading and handout you will meet with your small group and lead a discussion based on your reading and handout. Be sure to thoroughly explain your reading before you begin your discussion as your group members will not be familiar with your paper.
- 4) You will be assessed as per the attached assessment form.

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**The Matrix Small Group Reading  
Teacher Assessment**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Level 1 5 – 5.9</b>	<b>Level 2 6 – 6.9</b>	<b>Level 3 7 – 7.9</b>	<b>Level 4 8 - 10</b>
<p><b>Knowledge and understanding</b></p> <p>Understanding of concepts principles and theories.</p> <p>____/10</p>	<p>The introduction barely provides an overview of the paper and barely demonstrates an understanding of the main ideas.</p> <p>The thesis is not clearly or accurately identified.</p> <p>None of the supporting points for the argument are not clearly or accurately presented.</p>	<p>The introduction provides some overview of the paper while demonstrating some understanding of the main ideas.</p> <p>The thesis is somewhat identified.</p> <p>Some of the supporting points for the argument are somewhat presented.</p>	<p>The introduction provides a clear overview of the paper while demonstrating an understanding of the main ideas.</p> <p>The thesis is identified.</p> <p>Most of the supporting points for the argument are presented.</p>	<p>The introduction provides a clear overview of the paper while demonstrating an exceptional understanding of the main ideas.</p> <p>The thesis is clearly and accurately identified.</p> <p>All of the supporting points for the argument are clearly and accurately presented.</p>
<p><b>Communication</b></p> <p>Communication of ideas</p> <p>Communication for specific audiences and purposes</p> <p>____/10</p>	<p>Communicates ideas with little clarity and does not use appropriate language/terminology.</p> <p>The handout does not present ideas with appropriate layout/spacing and the required information.</p>	<p>Communicates ideas with some clarity using somewhat appropriate language/terminology.</p> <p>The handout presents ideas with somewhat appropriate layout/spacing and some required information.</p>	<p>Communicates ideas with clarity using appropriate language/terminology.</p> <p>The handout presents ideas with appropriate layout/spacing and all required information.</p>	<p>Communicates ideas with a high degree of clarity using exceptionally appropriate language/terminology.</p> <p>The handout clearly presents ideas with appropriate layout/spacing and all required information.</p>
<p><b>Thinking/Inquiry</b></p> <p>Inquiry skills (e.g., formulating questions; analysing and evaluating information; forming conclusions)</p> <p>____/10</p>	<p>Discussion questions are not thought provoking and do not prompt insightful dialogue.</p> <p>Conclusions are barely thought provoking or relevant.</p>	<p>Discussion questions are somewhat thought provoking and prompt some dialogue.</p> <p>Conclusions are somewhat thought provoking and relevant.</p>	<p>Discussion questions are thought provoking and prompt dialogue.</p> <p>Conclusions are thought provoking and relevant.</p>	<p>Discussion questions are exceptionally thought provoking and prompt insightful dialogue.</p> <p>Conclusions are extremely thought provoking and exceptionally relevant.</p>