

English 102
Spring 2016
Grayson

Considering Others' Ideas

We will be working with student samples regularly this semester. This is an act of collaboration and cooperation, not competition. Please feel free to respectfully, generously, and with kindness share your thoughts and questions, agree, disagree, and share constructive feedback. Our goal is grappling. To engage in dialogue we need to establish a level of trust. There are many ways to say what needs to be said. Please choose the most encouraging and productive way.

Please consider the excerpts from your fellow students' responses. Record your thoughts and reactions (including how and why you think and feel this way).

What ideas or examples challenge your perspective of humanity? How so? Why?

Please ask yourself how each idea/question impacts your working definition of humanity. Can you easily incorporate it into your existing perspective? Does it create greater complexity? Does it challenge your perspective? How so? Why? What do you need to consider or revise (re-enter) or explain to allow room for all of the ideas and questions so far?

Other things to consider:

Many of you mentioned that humans have the ability to know right from wrong. What would you say about our tendency to do “wrong” even when we can make the distinction.

“History allows us to learn from our mistakes.” Does our track record prove this? If no, what how does it impact your understanding/definition of humanity? Why?

What about all we don’t know we don’t know about ourselves and all of the other species, the environment, and the universe? Consider “human” or “humanity” in this context.

What about our relationship with the earth? or our denial about our dependence on the planet?

What about knowledge of our own mortality?

What about our sense of humor?