

## 9/11, Memory and Politics—Reflection Paper due November 21, 2018

This reflection paper will be based on these resources:

- **Visit to the 9/11 Museum on Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**
- **Questions you will respond to during the museum visit**
- **One pair of readings chosen from the following:**
  - **Readings 1**  
PSY: Elizabeth F. Loftus, “Crimes of Memory: False Memories and Societal Justice”  
SOC: Maurice Halbwachs, “The Reconstruction of the Past”
  - **Readings 2**  
PSY: Melanie Tannenbaum, “Are Your 9/11 Memories Really Your Own?”  
SOC: Dawn Rothe and Stephan L. Muzzati, “The War on Terror and a Terrified Public”

### Essay prompt

You have been given a set of questions about your own memory of 9/11 and what you experience and learn in the 9/11 Museum. For this essay, you should choose one pair of readings from the two pairs listed above and use both to reflect on your visit to the 9/11 Museum and the memory and meaning of 9/11 in your own life and in our society.

Your essay must use both of the readings from the pair that you choose (you are welcome to use all four) and should make explicit reference to the museum’s historical exhibit (you may also include the memorial exhibit). It should address the following topics:

**9/11 memory:** What are your own memories of 9/11 and where do they come from? What does psychology teach us about the constructive nature of memory (for example, false memories, misinformation effect)? How do interactions with other individuals shape your individual memory? How do social institutions like museums or the media shape individual memories like your own?

**9/11 Museum and the meaning of 9/11:** How does the 9/11 Museum depict terrorism and the events of September 11, 2001? What does it teach us about the causes and consequences of 9/11? How do you think the museum might shape your own memory and understanding of 9/11? How do you think it might shape social and political understanding of 9/11 and the US’s response to terrorism?

**Implications:** Terrorism is viewed to be major problem in our society today. Considering your responses to the above questions, what do you think are the implications of the 9/11 Museum’s depiction of terrorism and that particular terrorist attack? Does the museum have any political messages and if so, what are they? Does it help us to understand the causes and cope with terrorism? Does it contribute to a culture of fear around terrorism and ethnic/religious discrimination?

Your essay should be 3 pages (approximately 800 words), typed, double spaced in 12pt Times New Roman font.

It should be well organized, and have an introduction, body, and conclusion as well as logical transitions from one paragraph to the next. You must include all the required information above, but the order in which different parts of the paper are presented is completely up to you. Please cite any used resources in any of the format that you are familiar with. Please attach your responses to the questions about the museum.

**GRADING CRITERIA FOR 9/11 REFLECTION PAPER**

<u>Points</u> <b>(100 total)</b>	<u>Criteria</u>
	<p><b>CONTENT (80 points)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All of the questions below are answered specifically and in sufficient detail (the paper should be about 3 pages in length):               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>9/11 Memory:</b> What are your own memories of 9/11 and where do they come from? What does psychology teach us about the constructive nature of memory? How do interactions with other individuals shape your individual memory? How do social institutions like museums or the media shape individual memories?</li> <li>2. <b>9/11 Museum and the meaning of 9/11:</b> How does the 9/11 Museum depict terrorism and the events of September 11, 2001? What does it teach us about the causes and consequences of 9/11? How do you think the museum might shape your own memory and society’s understanding of 9/11?</li> <li>3. <b>Implications:</b> what do you think are the implications of the 9/11 Museum’s depiction of terrorism and that particular terrorist attack? Does the museum have any political messages and if so, what are they? Does it help us to understand the causes and cope with terrorism or does it contribute to a culture of fear around terrorism and ethnic/religious discrimination?</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Both readings (one from sociology and one from psychology) are incorporated in the paper.</li> <li>• Your responses to the 9/11 Museum questions are attached.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>ORGANIZATION AND CLARITY (10 points)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The introduction sparked interest and established the main point(s) of the paper.</li> <li>• The conclusion provided a thoughtful endpoint and satisfying sense of closure.</li> <li>• There are logical transitions between ideas.</li> <li>• Each paragraph begins with a thesis statement and is logically consistent.</li> <li>• Overall, the organization enhances the central idea(s) of the paper.</li> <li>• The writing is relevant and concise, avoiding unnecessary elaboration and jargon.</li> <li>• Overall, ideas in the paper are clearly articulated and easy to follow.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>PRESENTATION, DOCUMENTATION, AND GRAMMAR (10 points)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The paper includes your name, date of submission, course and section number.</li> <li>• The title of the paper is original (your own) and appropriately captures the main point of the paper.</li> <li>• The paper is double-spaced, includes 1-inch margins, the font is 12 points, and indentation is used to mark each paragraph.</li> <li>• All used sources are cited to avoid plagiarism.</li> <li>• Quotation marks are used for direct quotes; direct quotes are not overused.</li> <li>• The paper is checked for grammatical, spelling, and typing errors.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>LATENESS (1 point docked for each day past the due date)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The paper is submitted on <b>11/21</b>.</li> </ul>