

Common Sense (*Extra Credit*)

Point of This Assignment: To encourage students to become further self aware by recognizing why they assume something should be common sense.

Why Should You Do This?

- 1) To become further self aware.
- 2) To develop your critical thinking skills.
- 3) To develop your Internal Locus of Control.
- 4) To become more patient and tolerant of people who are different from you.

Instructions: Whenever a concept is brought up in this class and you assume it is common sense, you are encouraged to take the time to find out why your teacher would spend time teaching something that seems to be common sense to you. For every example of common sense analyzed, you will receive 2 points of extra credit for a maximum of 10 points possible for the semester.

1. **Concept:** _____ **Date:** _____

a. **General Topic:** _____ **Context Used:** _____

b. **Reflection:**

i. Why is this common sense to you?

ii. Is this being common sense a result of: (*circle all that apply*)

- 1. Your giftedness / natural talents
- 2. Your environmental shaping (*family, culture, education, religious upbringing, work skills/training, life experience, etc.*)
- 3. Other _____
- 4. Explain your response:

iii. Since it is being taught in this class, there is an audience for it. What kind of person would NOT know this by college age? _____

iv. Why would they NOT already know this? (*circle all that apply*)

- 1. It is NOT a natural talent
- 2. They did NOT have the environmental shaping (*family, culture, education, religious upbringing, work skills/training, life experience, etc.*)
- 3. They did have the shaping, but did not respond to it.
- 4. Other _____

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5. Explain your response:

c. Rather than tuning out, or getting annoyed at the teacher, identify a more productive attitude you can take towards this topic? (*I.e. Understand why this is necessary component of the class; be more grateful for how you were raised, become more tolerant of individuals who do need this; want to help/teach others who do need this; all of the above, etc.?*)

d. What is your response to realizing this is not common sense?

Test your understanding:

What is the main point of this Extra Credit assignment (*not the original assignment*)?

Why were you expected to do this exercise?

What type of person would need to do this exercise?

How well do you fit the profile of the person for whom this assignment was created?

Reflection: (*Write down your thoughts after completing this assignment.*)
