That’s My Position:
Writing the Position Paper

My expectation is that you will come to class prepared to contribute your thoughts and ideas. Being prepared means that you have read carefully the appropriate material prior to class and you are ready to create a dynamic intellectual community through your participation in discussion. To facilitate this process, you are assigned ____ position papers in which you are to offer a short summary and respond to some dimension of the readings for the day.

This is an opportunity to wrestle with the ideas that are being presented to you. At the end of your response you will provide one or two questions that you wish your class to entertain: think of this as an opportunity to engage your colleagues into your intellectual struggles. During each class time, be ready to share the ideas in your position paper and your questions with the class.

I will collect your position papers at the end of the class during which they are assigned.

Suggested Formatting

- One page, double-spaced, 12-point font (Times New Roman).
- Your name, the title of the reading to which you are responding and the response number.

Examples of issues you can tackle in your response:

- Explore a strong reaction to the text beyond “I did not like this text”.
- Challenge the reading (in a credible way).
- Make connections between the text and other readings or themes