**Theological Reflection**

Reflection is an essential dimension of the study of theology. In this assignment you are asked to reflect on an experience of service in which you have participated and that involved (directly) helping those less fortunate than yourself. Your focus point should be service that occurred in the not-too-distant past.

To assist you in this assignment, recall the theological concepts that have been introduced in this class (e.g., creation, sacramentality, faith, covenant, God images, vocation, Incarnation, discipleship), the Themes of Catholic Social Teaching, persons and stories from Scripture (including the Sermon on the Mount and the Great Commandment), videos you have watched, and key figures that you have studied, including Francis of Assisi. You should also consider the topics that have been part of our reflections (for example, “God’s Faithfulness and Ours” and “Be Yourself”).

The specific components your paper should include can be found on the rubric on the back side of this page.

All work is to be done in Times New Roman 12-point font and double spaced. Your paper should not exceed three pages.

Remember to proofread your paper. Have someone else proofread your paper as well.

You are asked to take your paper to the [Writing Center](https://www.neumann.edu/academics/ssc/writing-center). The link to make an online appointment can also be found in the left-hand column of our Canvas homepage (“Student Success Resources”). Be sure to indicate that you want a report noting your visit sent to Dr. Kruse.

Dr. Kruse is also available for writing assistance.

**Grammatical reminders:**

            1)  Do not use contractions (ex. = don’t) in formal writing.

            2)  Normally, do not use second person pronouns (“you”) in formal writing.

            3)  Watch for tense slippage.  Do not switch between past and present tenses when referring to events

that occurred at the same time.

**4) Be sure to indicate any direct quotes with quotation marks and to provide citations for these quotes. Provide citations in parentheses for biblical references [Ex. = (John 3:16)].**

**Important:**

This is a personal reflection paper. The purpose of this paper is for *you* to reflect on *your* experience. A computer cannot do this for you. The ideas presented should be your own. It is *your own voice* (not a computer-generated voice) that should be heard in this paper.

**Due date: 11:59pm on Wednesday, April 30. Please upload a copy of your paper as a Microsoft Word document using the link on Canvas (“Theological Reflection on Service Paper” module). [If you have trouble uploading your paper, try another web browser. If you continue to have a problem, take a screen shot of the error message and email the screenshot and your paper to Dr. Kruse.]**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Theological Reflection**

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| Points allotted |  | Points earned |
| 8 | Part One: (1/2 page; one paragraph)  Recall and reflect upon a service that you have performed. Include:   * A *brief* description of the service that you performed, to include: what/when/where/why * How you felt about doing this service (energized, reluctant, happy, upset) * How the person/s you served benefited from your act * How you benefited from this experience * What did you learn from those you served or served with? |  |
| 15 | Part Two: (3/4 page; one to three paragraphs)  Connect your service to three class themes.   * Describe *how* your personal experience of service connects with and helps you to understand better three specific theological themes, figures, stories, or reflection readings studied this semester (or vice versa, that is, *how* three class themes have helped you to understand your service on a deeper level). **You must address at least one biblical story, theme, or figure studied this semester.** Include a biblical reference (ex. = Exodus 3:7-8) for this story, theme, or figure.[Application of the Themes of Catholic Social Teaching counts as one class theme.] |  |
| 10 | Part Three: (1/2 page; one paragraph)  Consider insights gained through reflection. Respond to **one of the first three prompts AND prompt 4**:   * 1) In light of this theology course, how do you now see God in the service that you performed? What do you think God might have been communicating to you through your service experience? * 2) How does your service experience help you to understand your spirituality, faith, and/or sense of the sacred in new ways? * 3) What insights did you gain about yourself, God, and your relationship with God from this service experience? [If you do not accept the existence of God, indicate this and describe insights gained about yourself and your worldview.] * 4) What has your service experience taught you about your responsibility to others and about where you find meaning and purpose in life? |  |
| 8 | Part Four: (1/2 page; one paragraph)  Think about the reflection process you have just completed. Respond to each of the following prompts:   * Reread what you wrote. Summarize what completing the *reflection process* for this paper was like for you. * How did this reflection process help you to see the service you performed in a deeper or broader context? Did it make you aware of anything that you might have overlooked prior to doing this paper? * How might this paper affect your future choices? AND/OR How might you use this process in the future? |  |
| 7 | * Grammar, spelling, sentence structure, student voice |  |
| 2 | * Visit to the [Writing Center](https://www.neumann.edu/academics/ssc/writing-center)*.* |  |
| Pts. possible  50 | Teacher comments: | Total points |