Censor Instructions MITRA4001

Fall 2018

The assignment for this readings seminar asks students to choose two of five questions and to write brief essays in response to the questions the student chooses. The questions are each keyed to one of the sets of readings students discussed during seminar meetings. Strong answers each will include a clear statement of the student's position. An introduction that concedes there is support for both views is no problem, and if skillfully stated and framed may even strengthen the student's argument. However, was is necessary for a good outcome is that the student indicate, even if her or his view is complex, which side of the question is the more compelling.

The student responses should be organized analytically rather than narratively. They should include both strong and clear paragraph-by-paragraph organization, with good topic sentences. It should feature an array of specific information and references to the required readings on the course pensum. This supporting information should be comprehensive in its scope, but it need not be exhaustive. That is, the data should bear a clear relevance to the question and the student's thesis. It is essential that the examination draw on the required readings and not on outside sources. The student's reflections are of the highest importance here, but these reflections must be analytically pointed and must be rooted in a demonstrated understanding of the readings and the issues the readings raise.