

A Note about "Depth"

Depth does not necessarily mean "more words." Instead, depth requires consideration and analysis.

It comes from asking **Why** something is, and exploring **How** you came to a certain conclusion.

It can also come from building **Connections** to your coursework, career plans, community, as well as looking at your own **Personal Growth**.

Well-known ways to achieve depth are through the two following techniques:

- **5 Whys:** When you are about to write something, ask "Why." Then, ask "Why" four more times.
 - For example: "I find direct service to be the most interesting. *Why?* Because I like the idea of making an impact on someone right then and there. *Why?* It gives me a lot of satisfaction knowing that I can help others. *Why?* I have means and privilege that others don't have, but I could see how what I have could be taken away. *Why?* My parents needed help when they moved to this country. They used that help to figure out how to provide a good life for me. I feel like I'm paying forward the support others gave to them."
- **What - So What - Now What?:** Start by describing the experience/point. Then, explain what impact it made on you, and/ or why that point is important. End with what needs to happen going forward.
 - Example: I listened to X talking about direct service, and I felt really moved. The stories of individual people impacted by support really touched me. More so, though, I can see myself learning so much from others, including those who many would see as "less fortunate." I would like to work on a project that captures stories, and perhaps utilize those stories to uplift the voices of those who normally are pushed down. Seems to me that community organizing might be more my interest. I plan to do some research and come up with questions for when we hear from that panel.

Note about the Note:

You are NOT expected to use these techniques throughout all your assignments and reflections. These are just examples of way to achieve depth. If you would like more ideas, talk with your instructor.

Depth on Discussion Responses:

You can earn additional points for depth in responses to discussion posts. However, those do NOT need to follow the techniques above. You are asked to do more than just say "This is a great post!" or "I totally understand." Think about the following when writing:

- What overlap do you see in your experience or perspective? What resonated with you, and why?
- What type of response would help contribute to a sense of community?
- What feedback would you want someone to give to you?