Triad Exercise, Part 1: Starting Out

What is a “triad”? A triad is a set of three analytical elements (any combination of concept, event, person, process, institution, etc.) that are connected to one another in the context of our reading.

Purpose: The purpose of the exercise is to strengthen skills in the area of reading comprehension and the ability to identify the main points and issues in any text. We strive in this exercise to compose a single coherent sentence that combines three key elements from the week’s reading. This becomes a thesis for a potential short essay.

Knowledge: By doing this assignment, you will acquire a firm comprehension of a given text or set of texts in this course.

Skills: In this assignment you will develop the skill of making connections between important pieces of information. As a result, you will have the possibility to think about the material you have read in a more systematic and organized fashion.

Tasks: Step 1) Consider the Triads of the Week™ and choose one on which you would like to focus.

Step 2) Attempt initially to compose a sentence that combines at least two of the items in the triad and draws on the material that we have read.

Step 3) If you managed only to connect two of the items, then think about how you may now incorporate the third as well, preferably maintaining a single sentence.

Step 4) Review the sentence and consider whether it accurately reflects the texts that you read for the course.

Criteria: The sentence will be good if a) it uses all three items from the triad; b) is accurate with respect to the reading for the course; c) reasonably clear and expressive (i.e., the grammar and syntax are sound).