

**Afterthoughts Assignment**

**PURPOSE:** This assignment encourages students (and the teacher) to think about what happened in class after it concludes. Afterthoughts may take many forms, but they all react to something that happened in class. Their purpose is to promote learning between class sessions in addition to the learning that happens during them.

**SKILLS:** This assignment gives you practice developing the following skills:

* Thinking more deeply after class about what was presented or discussed in class
* Practice sharing further thoughts, in writing, about course content
* Practice speaking your thoughts about course content after you’ve had time to think about it
* The ability to apply course content to or in situations outside of class
* The ability to connect what’s being learned in one course with learning in or from other courses
* Learning from the insights and experiences of fellow students
* A new way to “study” course content

**KNOWLEDGE:** What knowledge you’ll gain by doing the assignment:

* A clearer understanding of why and how course content is relevant beyond the classroom
* A collection of examples illustrating how what’s being talked about in the course applies to other situations
* New insights about course content

**TASKS:** The Afterthoughts assignment includes a number of tasks. Here’s what you need to be able to say about your Afterthoughts when they’re completed:

* My Afterthoughts: 1) followed-up on an important point covered in class, 2) raised questions about what was discussed in class, 3) linked ideas presented in several different class sessions, 4) corrected, adjusted, or extended an Afterthought someone else presented in class, or 5) connected course content with something on TV, a film, the Internet, in a book, with content from another course, or with something I experienced.
* When the idea for an Afterthought came to me, I spent time thinking about it.
* I made notes about my Afterthought so I was prepared to talk or write about it
* If given the chance, I shared my Afterthought in the next class session
* If the instructor asked, I shared my Afterthought in an email to the instructor
* At least once (hopefully more) I responded to an Afterthought offered by the teacher or a classmate
* I kept a record of my Afterthoughts, including the dates I offered them and a brief summary of each.

**ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:**

* Did the Afterthought link to course content?
* Was the link to course content adequately explained and illustrated?
* Was the Afterthought presented in writing or verbally?
* Were the Afterthoughts of others responded to?
* Were between XX and XX Afterthoughts presented?
* Was documentation included detailing as to when and how the Afterthought was shared?

This download is a supplement to the article **Afterthoughts: An Assignment that Gets Students Thinking.**