

Week 7 - Assignment: Microtheme

Due Nov 17, 2019 by 11:59pm

Points 20

Submitting a file upload

Assignment Instructions



A microtheme is a very short essay that is intended to clearly state a point. Your assignment is to write a data-based microtheme that uses data to answer a question. A data-based microtheme describes a general thesis or observation that summarizes a set of data. "Data are provided in the form of tables or factual statements. The student must comment on their significance. Selecting, arranging, connecting, and generalizing about data develops inductive reasoning. Students thus progress from merely listing facts to making assertions."

You are provided with 8 factual statements from Stern (2018) and a prompt below. You must write a 300-500 word essay that distills and summarizes these statements to address the prompt. You do not have to use all the information in these statements, but you should use some.

Your essay should contain the following:



1. A central thesis or topic statement: 1-2 sentences about an argument or general statement you are making based on the facts that address the prompt.
2. Supporting information: A logical order of arguments that follow and support your thesis.
3. A concluding statement: 1-2 sentences wrapping up your essay that support your thesis and provide a 'so what'.

Prompt:

Imagine you work for your state's Fish & Wildlife agency. Recently the local community has been upset about logging restrictions due to increased protection for an endangered species. Your boss wants to hold a community meeting where he will tell all of the loggers about the importance of the species, thus gaining their support for the increased protection. Using all of the statements supplied below, write a brief essay that you can bring to your next staff meeting addressing your

Statements from Stern (2018), Chapter 10:

1. People are prone to cognitive biases
2. "People's beliefs about their own basic needs might differ from yours..."
3. "Communications should be personally relevant and stress both positive outcomes and loss avoidance"
4. "Calling attention to positive behaviors is a more effective strategy than complaining that undesirable behaviors are common."
5. "While discussing positive outcomes of potential actions is critical, framing messaging in terms of how people can avoid a loss to something they care about tends to be more motivating."
6. "People often shut down if they feel their identity is threatened by new information or people."
7. "The adoption of good ideas happens faster if they are communicated by trusted opinion leaders."
8. "Effective environmental solutions must link in some way with pre-existing social norms, even if the solutions require changes to common behaviors."

Submission Details

- Total Points 20
- Due date: Sunday at the end of this week, no later than 11:59pm
- Upload your assignment as a Word doc or pdf file.
- Resources:
 - Would you like Word and other Microsoft Office applications? You have free access as an OSU student: [Office 365 and Office Applications for Oregon State](https://is.oregonstate.edu/microsoft) (<https://is.oregonstate.edu/microsoft>)
 - Tutorial: [How do I upload a file as an assignment submission in Canvas?](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10663-421254353) (<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10663-421254353>)

Grading Criteria

See rubric, below, for grading criteria.

Microtheme Rubric					
Criteria	Ratings			Pts	
Strong thesis statement	4.0 to >2.0 pts Full Marks A clear, concise thesis statement lays out the topic of the microtheme	2.0 to >0.0 pts Meets Partially Thesis statement is not clearly written or is not the best statement for the argument.	0.0 pts Missing or No Attempt Thesis statement not obvious	4.0 pts	
Logical order of arguments	6.0 to >4.0 pts Full Marks Data/statements are organized in such a way as to provide clear flow between ideas and ultimately support thesis statement	4.0 to >2.0 pts Meets Partially Data/statements are presented in a way that is somewhat organized, but is not the best structure to facilitate development of the argument	2.0 to >0.0 pts Meets Partially Data/statements are presented in a way that is somewhat organized, but is not the best structure to facilitate development of the argument	0.0 pts Missing or No Attempt Data statements are not in a logical order	6.0 pts
Strong concluding statement	4.0 to >2.0 pts Full Marks A clear, concise concluding statement summarizes the microtheme	2.0 to >0.0 pts Meets Partially Concluding statement is not clearly written or is not the best statement to summarize the argument.	0.0 pts Missing or No Attempt Concluding statement not obvious	4.0 pts	
Terminology	4.0 to >2.0 pts Full Marks Discipline-specific terminology is mostly used correctly.	2.0 to >0.0 pts Meets Partially Many errors in use of terminology.	0.0 pts Missing or No Attempt	4.0 pts	
Overall quality	2.0 to >0.0 pts Full Marks Generally thoughtful, creative, and well-written.	0.0 pts Missing or No Attempt Missing or generally poorly written, lacking thoughtfulness, and/or not demonstrating understanding of assignment.		2.0 pts	
Total Points: 20.0					