The University Studies program has four goals that serve as the cornerstones around which each University Studies class is designed: Inquiry and Critical Thinking, Communication, appreciation of Human Diversity and Ethical and Social Responsibility.

This year, University Studies is focusing on how your ability to engage in inquiry and critical thinking is enhanced by this capstone course.

Please read the following documents posted to D2L to understand aspects of inquiry and critical thinking:
1) “Critical Thinking_article.pdf” by Blythe McVicker Clinchy
2) “unst_rubric_critical_thinking” from University Studies
3) “Critical Thinking_when analyzing a news story…” from Prof. Cliff Perry
4) “Critical Thinking_rubric” from Prof. Cliff Perry

To help you frame your essay, please consider the following:

Imagine someone from PSU has selected you to speak to the University Studies goal of Inquiry and Critical Thinking from your own lived experience in this Capstone class. What connections can be made between your lived experience in this course and inquiry and critical thinking?

You may consider these questions to craft your 3 page reflective paper addressing how you enhanced your critical thinking in this course:
- From my own lived experience, how did engaging in the community project for this course enhance my problem solving abilities?
- How have the structure of this course, the assignments, the tasks of this class, and/or our class discussions enhanced my ability to analyze community issues from multiple perspectives?
- How has my work as a team member given me insight into this goal of critical thinking and collective problem solving?
- How does the process of self-reflection enhance my ability to critically think about my beliefs and attitudes towards the real world issues we addressed in this class?
- How has the production of the inputs into the final project for the client allowed me to practice critical thinking skills?
- How have the readings and in this class furthered my critical thinking skills? What new insights and understandings have I gained through the required reading of this course?

As you craft your 3 typed pages, remember to write from your own experience with I/me/my language. It will be important that you generate your observations and experiences with detail. As you write, ask yourself how do I claim this to be true? Be sure the content of your assignment reflects those claims.