



## THE CAMPUS READING: REQUIRED ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

All incoming first-year students are required to submit a reflective essay on the Campus Reading by **August 12**. To complete your essay on *I Never Thought of It That Way* by Mónica Guzmán, please select one of the following prompts.



**In no more than 250 words**, respond to the selected prompt. **Be sure to include the number of the prompt to which you are responding at the top of your essay.**

Instructions on how to submit the essay via Brightspace (beginning on August 1) are included on the back of this page and at [vu.edu/campusreading](https://vu.edu/campusreading).

As a reminder, your essay response will be shared with your faculty and student VUceptors; it will **not** be shared with the other members of your Visions group without your consent. If you have questions about this assignment, email [campus.reading@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:campus.reading@vanderbilt.edu).

### PROMPTS

1. In *I Never Thought of It That Way*, Guzmán uses her personal experiences to illustrate the challenges and rewards of engaging in conversations with people who hold opposing views. In approximately 250 words, reflect on your own experiences and explain how they have impacted the ways you have engaged in conversations with people with opposing views, giving at least one detailed example.
2. In *I Never Thought of It That Way*, Guzmán discusses the significance of asking "how" instead of "why" in conversations. In approximately 250 words, share an experience from your own life of a conversation that went awry. In reflecting on that conversation, what kinds of "how" questions could you have posed, and how do you imagine doing so might have changed the outcome of the conversation?
3. Look through your highlights and notes from your reading of *I Never Thought of It That Way*. Choose one of those sections that resonated with you, and in approximately 250 words, articulate why it mattered to you. It can matter to you for any reason at all: the section resonated with you, or it made you angry, or it perplexed you. The prompt is simply asking you to share why. Please briefly describe the section in your response.

# SUBMIT YOUR ESSAY VIA BRIGHTSPACE

To submit your essay, you will need to access Brightspace. Follow these instructions, found on the Brightspace help site, to do so\*:

1. Go to [brightspace.vanderbilt.edu](https://brightspace.vanderbilt.edu) and login with your VUnetID and password.
2. **Beginning on August 1**, you will find that you have been enrolled in a course called, "Vanderbilt Visions Group [Group #]". **Note: you will not be able to access this course until your Visions assignment is finalized on August 1.** If you cannot find your group assignment after August 1, please email [visions@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:visions@vanderbilt.edu).
3. Click on this course.
4. Click on **Activities & Assessments**. Find the assignment called, "Campus Reading Reflective Essay" and click on it.
5. You will see a description of the assignment, including the specific prompts. Scroll down to **Submit Files**. Here you can upload a file and enter text—all of which the university will see once you have clicked **Submit**. You are strongly encouraged to complete your essay in a word processor and then upload the text, rather than typing it directly in the text box.
6. Once your assignment has been submitted, you will see the **File Upload Results** page. Review these details to ensure you have successfully submitted the essay.

If you would like to view illustrated instructions for submitting an assignment via Brightspace, visit

<https://www.vanderbilt.edu/brightspace/how-do-i-submit-an-assignment-2/>.

## SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

For more support in understanding the themes present in the Campus Reading, visit [vanderbilt.edu/elc/resources/supplement-to-i-never-thought-of-it-that-way/](https://www.vanderbilt.edu/elc/resources/supplement-to-i-never-thought-of-it-that-way/). There you will find a supplemental guide to the reading developed by the English Language Center which will offer reading strategies and a content overview among other tools.

## QUESTIONS

If you are unable to access Brightspace over the summer, require additional time to complete the reflective essay, or have any questions about this assignment, please email [campus.reading@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:campus.reading@vanderbilt.edu).

\*How do I submit an assignment? (2020). Retrieved from <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/brightspace/how-do-i-submit-an-assignment-2/>