

Economic Transformation in Capitalist Society

INTERVIEW/SELF-REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT

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Assignment Description

Interview or Self-Reflection Assignment (600 – 1000 words): Students will either conduct an interview with a community member involved in non-capitalist or alternative capitalist activities, including participation in social or solidarity economies, social reproduction, or organizing for social justice causes, or they can write a self-reflection if they are personally engaged in such activities. For the interview option, students should explore the participant's motivations for seeking alternatives to capitalism, their social and economic values, the specific activities they are involved in, the problems they aim to address, and the solutions they pursue. Students should also inquire about lessons learned and gather advice on participating in non-capitalist or alternative capitalist practices. Following the interview, students will write a summary that integrates key insights from the discussion, connecting these ideas explicitly to the course material. For the self-reflection option, students who meet the criteria described above can reflect on their own experiences, motivations, values, and the lessons they've learned from engaging in non-capitalist or alternative capitalist practices. The self-reflection should also connect personal experiences to the course readings in the same way as the interview option.

Interview

Interview Assignment: Non-Capitalist/Alternative Capitalist Activities

Goal: Assess these 4 components through the interview:

1. Organization/Project/Activity

1. What is the organization, project, or activity?
2. How does it connect to course themes?

2. Motivation for Involvement

1. Why did the interviewee join or start the organization/project/activity?
2. Why do they continue participating in the organization/project/activity?

3. Lessons from Experience

1. What insights can they share about success or overcoming challenges?

4. How Does Your Interview Connect to the Course Readings?

Interview - Organization of Report

What you need to do:

1. **Get permission to conduct an interview** with someone involved in a non-capitalist or alternative capitalist project, organization, or activity.
2. **Conduct the interview** following an organized plan, gathering meaningful insights from the interviewee.
3. **Write a report** about the interview in the style of a mini-research paper, where you analyze and present your findings, not just summarize the conversation.

Reports must include:

- **An introduction to why this topic is important.** Contextualize the interview topic by linking it to course readings and themes. Please explain why this interview subject and their experience are relevant to the broader issues discussed in class and the course readings.
- **An overview of the methodology.** Briefly describe your approach to conducting the interview, the types of questions you asked, and any challenges or considerations that shaped the process.
- **Report on your findings.** Summarize the key points from the interview. What insights or perspectives did the interviewee share? What were their motivations, challenges, or unique experiences in the non-capitalist or alternative-capitalist space?
- **Provide a discussion linking the interview to course themes.** Explore how the interview findings relate to the broader course topics and readings. Explore how the interview relates to broader course themes and readings and what lessons can be drawn.

Please do not just write out the questions and answers. Your report should frame the interview findings as part of a broader research-based analysis, linking your interview to critical themes discussed in class.

[Here is an example of a short research report.](#)

Self-Reflection

Self-Reflection Assignment: Non-Capitalist/Alternative Capitalist Activities

Goal: Reflect on these 4 components based on your own experience:

1. Organization/Project/Activity

1. What is the organization, project, or activity you are involved in?
2. How does it connect to the course themes?

2. Motivation for Involvement

1. Why did you choose to get involved in this organization/project/activity?
2. What keeps you engaged and participating?

3. Lessons from Your Experience

1. What key insights have you gained about achieving success or overcoming challenges through your involvement?

4. How Does Your Self-Reflection Connect to the Course Readings?

Self-Reflection - Organization of Report

What you need to do:

1. **Identify and reflect** on your involvement in a non-capitalist or alternative capitalist project, organization, or activity.
2. **Conduct a deep self-reflection** on your role and experience.
3. **Write a report** about your self-reflection in the style of a mini-research paper.

Reports must include:

- **An introduction to why this topic is important.** Contextualize your self-reflection by linking your experience to course readings and themes. Explain why the project, organization, or activity you were involved in is relevant to the broader issues discussed in class and the course readings.
- **An overview of your topic.** Briefly describe your involvement in the non-capitalist or alternative capitalist project, organization, or activity. Discuss any challenges or considerations that shaped your participation or your reflections on your role.
- **Report on your reflections and findings.** Summarize the key points of your self-reflection. What were your motivations for getting involved? What challenges or insights did you experience? What unique perspectives did you gain from your engagement in this space?
- **Provide a discussion linking your self-reflection to course themes.** Explore how your experiences relate to the broader course topics and readings. Explore how the interview relates to broader course themes and readings and what lessons can be drawn.

Please do not just recount your experiences through personal anecdotes but frame your self-reflection as an autoethnography that connects to course readings.

Rubrics

[Link to Rubric for Interview Assignment](#)

[Link to Rubric for Self-Reflection Assignment](#)

The assignment must be between 600 and 1000 words (excluding bibliography).