

Hello, Fellow Learners this is Professor Gary McCloskey welcoming you to this activity on the practice of the Augustinian Reflection Circle/Augustine's Reflective Thinking Circle. The purpose of this presentation and this activity is to assist you in the practice of reflective thinking that we have found in Augustine's work.

What you are looking at is the handout that can be downloaded from the Learning Management System where this activity is placed among the other activities for the course.

As you look at the infographic that begins the handout you will see that this is an infographic that you have seen before in a previous lecture. It reminds us that Augustine learned with others in dialogues, sermons and letters to and from his friends. He reflected on what he learned in discussions with the Inner Teacher in his Soliloquies, incorporated new learning and reinforce the previous learning through reflections like those in this text Reconsiderations, in Latin Retractationes, and he shared his learning in ways that can be seen in his Confessions.

At the bottom of this page text has been provided with quotes from Augustine, so that you can shift from the dialogues that you've been having with others in the course, particularly in the discussion forums, into this activity in a reflective way.

After beginning your reflection you are ready to move on to page 2 -- into the second part "Soliloquies" (the What?). You begin to reflect on what you had been finding thus far in the course. At the top there are a couple of quotes from Augustine to help you in shifting into this aspect of your reflection.

In the left hand side in the left hand column in the box you should jot down what you are remembering from your dialogues as things that you have learned and that you consider as having some level of importance. Just jot them down in no order -- no specific judgment about them. Just jot them down. If your list exceeds the size of the box in this Word document, the box will extend and if it goes beyond the page it's on that's no problem.

If you've completed your brainstorming and your list, then you take those items and move them into the right hand side putting what is more important in the list you now have after reflection in the upper right hand box and those things that are less important you put in the lower left hand box.

After you've completed filling in these boxes you are ready to move to page three and the part of the assignment that is the "Reconsiderations" (So What?) aspect of the Augustinian Reflective Thinking Circle. Again, there are a couple of quotes from Augustine to help you in moving here because what you're beginning to deal with are scaffolding/ladders in your learning that you can use in more helpful ways.

In the boxes on the page here will first focus on the upper boxes. What you need to do is take what you've learned in the previous page and you found important in some way and now take them and identify what you see

as supporting what you have previously known and what things are different from what you've previously known. What supports what you previously known you put in the left-hand upper box and what is different from what you previously known you put in the upper right hand box.

When you've completed that then you work on the lower boxes. In the lower left-hand box you identify how what is in the upper left-hand box will affect the way you think or act and in the lower right-hand box you identify what is in the upper right hand box and how that will affect the way you will think or act.

Once you've completed that you're ready to move on to the fourth part on page 4 which is the "Confessions" (Now What?) aspect. Here you are taking the things that you've identified in the previous page as either reinforcing what you've already known or leading you in different ways to reconsider what you've known. Now you're ready to bring them to some sort of conclusion.

In the upper box on this page after you've looked at the text and reflected a bit about your searching and your discoveries you identify what you discovered that you think you're ready to share with others now and that doesn't need any further work and you put that in the top box.

Then there will be things possibly that you need to search some more about -- that you need to work on some more. Then you sort then and into the appropriate box of the three boxes in the lower part of that page. You'll decide what things need more Exploration (more information). You'll look at those things that you need to test out more - Experiment with a bit more before you really come to conclusions and those things that you just need some more Reflection on. If you don't fill in all the boxes on this page, that's not a problem. It's taking what you've learned in the previous part and building on them, following up and finding a place for each part so that you know where you are in the discovery and searching phases for all of what you have been looking at, what you've been discussing and what you have been learning.

On the last page of this assignment is the activity assessment. You'll notice in the columns there are three levels of assessment. The lowest level that you work will be graded as is struggling. The middle level is developing and accomplished is the highest level that you can get in a particular area.

Each of the pages has its own row. Page 2 - "Soliloquies" (What?) is the first row there and in it you will see that there are two things that you are expected to do. One of them is brainstorming and the other is sorting. Again that's how the boxes are set up in the "Soliloquies" page.

Then on the "Reconsiderations" (So What?) page, you will be assessed on how you have identified what supports your previous thinking and what here is different and needing reconsideration. That's one thing. Then, the other part is how you have identified the effects that those things will have on your thinking or acting.

Next in the "Confessions" (Now What?) on page four - the fourth part - you will be assessed (looked at) in terms of what you've taken from your reconsiderations so there's a clear movement to this page. Then you will also be assessed on how well you align these things into the share, explore, experiment and reflection categories, that is, to how much you've discovered and what ways you still need to keep searching.

Once you have completed this assignment you are to submit it in the section of the Learning Management System set for this activity. I hope that this walk through the activity will help you in the personal practice of the Augustinian Reflection Circle. If you have questions or difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact me through the Learning Management System.

I wish you well in your Augustinian reflection work and I hope that this assignment is helpful to you. Good Luck!!!