

# Fall 2021 NUB Instructor Outline for Module 8a: Critical Thinking Assignment Discussion and Letter to Future Self

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## Overview

Today students will discuss their critical thinking assignment (if you they have not yet) and write a letter to their “future selves”—a letter that will be mailed to them in four years (hopefully upon graduation).

### Peer Mentor Moments

- Announcements/Troubleshooting at the beginning of class.
- Chime into the discussion on the critical

### Highlights

- Circle discussion of the Critical Thinking assignment
- Bring stationary etc. for the Closing Exercise!
- Show the “verse” video <https://sites.niagara.edu/other/nub/videos/?stage=Stage>
- Remind students to bring handbooks for final exam if you have class twice per week.
- The engagement assignment is due this week.

## Class Outline

- **Troubleshooting:** (3 mins) Ask students about any problems they are facing—academically, in the residence halls, dealing with family at home, relationships, etc. Encourage your peer mentor to give advice about how to handle those problems. Chip in, or suggest alternatives to your peer mentor’s advice, as necessary.
- **Peer mentor announcements:** (2 mins) Announcement about things to do on campus this week and any other announcements.
- **Critical Thinking Circle Discussion:** (15-20 mins) Have everyone go around the room and report on what struck them the most about the article. Peer mentors should be sure to pipe up (so make sure you read the article also). How does the article tie in the mission at NU? How is it relevant to you as an individual or tie into your major?

## Closing Exercise: (15 mins)

- Show the video “What will your verse be?” (1:58 min) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7OE6bDfM2M>, then talk about the message of the video. What might it mean to students to have a verse? The idea is to get them thinking about the kinds of things they could write in their letter to their future selves.
- Distribute materials for “Letter to your Future Self” and show students how to properly address an envelope. Please illustrate the format on the whiteboard as many students don’t do this correctly.

- Students should write a letter to their future selves—specifically, their selves four years from now when they graduate from NU. The letter should answer the following two questions: What Will Your Verse Be? How will you use your time at NU to begin writing it? These questions circle back to our first week’s video, and you should make the point explicitly that we’ve come full circle now. Stationary with a full prompt and envelopes will have been circulated to you via interoffice mail. Have students put these in sealed envelopes, ask them to address the envelope to a permanent address (likely, their parents’ house) and collect the sealed envelopes and return them in a packet that your Peer Mentor(s) will deliver to Derek Moran, NUB Administrative Assistant, Room 2212 Clet Hall. **We will mail these back to the students in four years’ time!**
- **There may be time for general discussion of your choice.**
- **Remind students to bring their handbooks for the final exam.**
- **Collect the engagement assignments.**