

# Biases – Positionality Statement

Each criterion must be fully met. If any part is missing, unclear, or incorrect → **Not Met**.

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## 1. Definition & Understanding of Positionality

**Met:** The introduction must contain a precise and original definition of positionality written in the student's own words, demonstrating full comprehension rather than paraphrased or copied phrasing. The definition must explicitly link positionality to identity, perspective, and bias, making clear how an individual's background and social location influence how they see the world and how others see them. The explanation must be more than a dictionary-style sentence—it must show evidence of understanding by weaving together the relationship between identity categories and perspective. Anything short of a clear, thorough, and original explanation fails to meet the requirement.

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## 2. Explanation of Intersectionality

**Met:** The student must explicitly name Kimberlé Crenshaw and correctly describe intersectionality as the study of how overlapping identities (such as race, gender, sexuality, class, ability, etc.) combine to create unique experiences of privilege and oppression. The explanation must demonstrate comprehension of how intersectionality differs from considering identities separately and must provide enough detail to show the student understands the complexity of identity-based experiences. The concept must be explained in the student's own words, with accurate, specific phrasing that shows depth of thought, not surface-level summary.

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## 3. Lived Experiences

**Met:** The statement must include at least two distinct, specific, and detailed personal experiences directly connected to the student's identities. These experiences must clearly illustrate how identity has influenced the student's worldview, opportunities, challenges, or perspective. Vague or generalized descriptions (e.g., "I was treated differently") are insufficient—the examples must include concrete details, contexts, and outcomes. Each experience must be explicitly tied to at least one aspect of identity such as race, gender, sexuality, socioeconomic class, religion, or ability, and the connection must be explained, not assumed. Both examples must work together to demonstrate the shaping power of identity on lived reality.

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## 4. Perceptions of Others

**Met:** The statement must describe at least two clear examples of how others perceive, stereotype, or make assumptions about the student based on their intersecting identities. These examples must be specific, contextualized, and explicitly linked to identity, showing how others' views either align with or contradict the student's self-understanding and lived experiences. The student must analyze these perceptions in detail, explaining how external judgments impact their self-presentation, opportunities, or sense of belonging. General mentions of "people think differently about me" without examples and analysis are insufficient. The explanation must reveal the student's ability to critically examine the disconnect or overlap between personal identity and public perception.

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## 5. Connection to Theory

**Met:** The student must make at least one explicit, detailed connection between their personal experiences and intersectionality theory—or another properly cited scholarly theory relevant to identity. The connection must show how theory helps interpret or explain lived experiences, not just mention the concept in passing. This requires an in-text APA citation and a full reference list entry. The use of theory must be integrated smoothly into the reflection, with analysis that demonstrates understanding of both the theory and the student's experiences. Surface-level name-dropping of terms or incomplete references is insufficient—the connection must be substantive, clear, and academically rigorous.

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## 6. Conclusion

**Met:** The statement must end with a separate, fully developed conclusion paragraph that not only summarizes the main insights but also explains why recognizing positionality is significant in academic, professional, or social contexts. The conclusion must go beyond restating prior content by explicitly articulating the value of self-awareness, the influence of bias, and the importance of reflection. It must provide closure and demonstrate that the student has thought critically about the purpose of the assignment. A strong conclusion should answer the implicit "so what?" question by clarifying the broader implications of understanding positionality.

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## Option 1: 7. Formatting Requirements

**Met:** The written submission must meet **all** formatting requirements without exception. The paper must be typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, and double-spaced. It must include a

cover page and a correctly formatted APA reference list. All sources, including Crenshaw, must be cited in-text using APA style. The final draft must reach a minimum of 750 words of original, substantive content (excluding cover page and references). Every element of formatting must be present and correct; even one omission or error results in not meeting the standard.

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## Option 2: 7. Video Requirement

**Met:** The student must submit a video presentation that is between 5 and 7 minutes in length, not shorter or longer. The video must have clear audio and visual quality, with the student visible on screen for the entire duration and actively speaking throughout. The submission must be either a direct upload or a working, unlisted YouTube/Vimeo link that is accessible without a password. The video must be professional in tone and delivery, and it must match the content of the written statement. Any technical, length, or presentation issues disqualify the submission.

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## 8. Submission Rules

**Met:** The assignment must be submitted on or before the official deadline in the correct format, either as a file upload or as a working video link. If a link is provided, it must be accessible without login or password restrictions. The submission must open properly on the instructor's end without errors. Meeting all submission rules exactly as specified is mandatory; there is no allowance for exceptions, extensions, or alternative formats. Your face must actually be in the videos the entire time. Not a voice over. Not anything in your likeness (i.e. an ai avatar). Not someone else standing in for you. Your actual face must be in the camera.

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## 9. Professionalism & Academic Integrity

**Met:** The writing must be entirely original, reflective, and analytical, demonstrating the student's personal engagement with the material. Plagiarism of any kind, AI-generated content, or filler text is strictly prohibited. The tone must be professional, academic, and respectful, free from slang or inappropriate language. The work must go beyond description to analyze and reflect on the significance of identity, bias, and positionality. The student must demonstrate ownership of their voice and ideas, with all sources properly cited. Anything less than complete academic integrity and professional conduct disqualifies the assignment.

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### Scoring System:

- All criteria must be **Met** exactly as described.
- If even **one criterion is not met in full**, the assignment automatically fails.