Assignment: To participate in a Hi Impact project entitled Empathy: Feeling the Joy and Suffering of Others. The project includes reading A Muscular Empathy, attending a lecture given by Professor Anthony Monohan of the Health and Physical Education Department, doing preliminary research on the topic of empathy, preparing formal presentations for the QCC community, and writing reflection papers. In your reflection papers, you will explore how your thoughts and perceptions about empathy have changed as a result of having completed the assignment.

There will be a series of lectures on campus given by QCC professors and other reputable educational institutions. These lectures are made possible through a generous NEH Challenge Grant, and I urge you to attend as many lectures as possible. You can find more information about the 2014 – 2015 KHRCA Colloquia Schedule here:

http://qcc.libguides.com/nehchallenge

The theme of the Colloquia is Testimony Across the Disciplines: Cultural and Artistic Responses to Genocide. As you attend the scheduled events on campus, you will learn a great deal about the horrendous crimes committed to humanity in the past.

In addition to attending the lectures, reading A Muscular Empathy, watching Professor Monohan’s lecture on empathy, you will read selected essays from Blooming Through The Ashes: An International Anthology on Violence and the Human Spirit. You will have the opportunity to read and discuss the essays with your classmates, and raise and respond to pertinent questions regarding empathy.
As you undertake the project, it will be important for you to reflect on the following questions:

1. What is empathy? More importantly, what is the lecturer’s perspective on empathy?
2. What are the complexities involving empathy that are made visible by your individual experience?
3. In your opinion, why is empathy important to study in school – in every discipline?
4. In what ways is empathy important to those seeking to address and foster social reform and peace?
5. When did a specific ethnic group violate the basic principles of empathy? Use quotes, images, and any other material you can find to allow the experience to take center stage for the reader.
6. Last but not least, what can be done to ensure that humans coexist in peace and harmony regardless of their diverse backgrounds?

Prepare to give a 20-minute presentation. Be sure to cite the sources you gather information from and compile a list of your references in an alphabetical order. This should be the last slide of your PowerPoint presentation.

Your presentation should have an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. You may wish to include audio files, video clips, and excerpts from the speeches the lecturers gave. If you need technical assistance preparing your presentation, please do not hesitate to speak to Mr. Baig in the BSLC Computer Lab (H-237). Once you have chosen a specific subtopic with your peers, you can work in the Computer Lab to prepare your PowerPoint slides and earn credit towards your 12 recitation hours.

Please check your email for more instructions on how to prepare a formal presentation. It would be useful to rehearse your presentation beforehand so that you can make the necessary changes to improve the content of the presentation. Last but not least, do not hesitate to make an appointment with me to discuss your presentation with me.