

Book Analysis/Deconstruction #1

Dead Aid, by Dambisa Moyo

► **Due: Tuesday, January 25th at the beginning of class.**

The following are guideline questions for your reading response papers. You should address **each** of the following questions in a polished response paper (2-3 pages single spaced).

Your answers to each of these questions should be as precise and well-polished as you can make them. More is NOT necessarily better here. Jump in and get to the heart of the matter. Analyze, then synthesize.

More importantly, you will need to have read the text carefully (reading the lines as well as between the lines) in order to answer these questions well. You may quote sections where it is appropriate to back up your arguments and/or synthesis of the work (include page numbers). However, keep in mind that the bulk of this paper should be made up of your words and analysis, not someone else's.

Guiding Questions for Your Analysis

- 1. Argument/Thesis?** — What is the central argument/thesis developed in the work?
- 2. Evidence?** — What **TYPES** of evidence are provided in order to support the central argument? What's the range of types of evidence? Who provides it? Is it substantive? WHAT seems to be MISSING? That is, what EVIDENCE could/should have possibly been provided but wasn't?
- 3. Sources?** — What specific sources or types of sources provide support for the argument? Who is regularly quoted and/or cited and WHAT organizations or national/cultural affiliations do they represent? Who is NOT quoted/cited? Who possibly should have been included to make this a better argument?
- 4. Assumptions?**—These are underlying and often unstated assessments, biases, or evaluations upon which the argument is grounded. What are the major assumptions underlying the author's central argument?
- 5. Cultural Angles/Slants/Perspectives?** — From what PERSPECTIVE(s) is the book written? What are the personal or cultural angles or slants behind the argument? What cultural, philosophical, social, religious, economic, political, or intellectual perspective does the article support/defend criticize? How and Why?
- 6. Judgments/Evaluations?** — What are the central judgments/evaluations which are made in the piece?
- 7. Comparison/Context?** How do the arguments **compare** to other arguments that you have read or heard? Be as specific as you can? How do they fit (or not) into the larger "melting-pot" of ideas that many people in the world are raised to believe?
- 8. Personal perspective? What are your perspectives about the arguments made here?**