

Argumentative Critique

1st draft due 2/19 with copies for peer review, final draft due 2/21

In this paper, you will summarize and analyze one scholarly article of your choice on your research topic. Unlike the summary, this assignment involves not only explaining the source but also rigorously critiquing it. You should think about the following questions as you're reading: What is the author's main point? How does he/she construct the argument? What kind of rhetorical tools is the author using to persuade the reader (think ethos, logos, and pathos)? What kind of evidence does the author use to support his/her points? Is the methodology sound? Does the argument contain any logical fallacies? Is it valid? Be sure to evaluate the reliability of your source carefully. For example, does the language reveal a bias? Do any assumptions underpin the argument? Is the author coming from an identifiable theoretical or ideological viewpoint?

You may not need to answer all of these questions to write a persuasive rhetorical analysis (and you don't want to answer them in a list-like manner), but you will need to answer most of them to arrive at some conclusions about the article. **Your thesis will be your argument about the validity and credibility of the source.**

Your source must be a minimum **10-page scholarly article** (i.e. from a scholarly, peer-reviewed journal, with footnotes/bibliography) **from the last five years--no popular sources. You must also include a photocopy of the article with your final draft.** The article should be a serious, thoughtful, and sustained approach to the topic. You need to use one of the library databases such as OMNI file or ASP to find scholarly sources—no Google searches!

While you should summarize and paraphrase most of the author's ideas in your own language, I also want you to start to learn how to incorporate quotations into your writing, so you must include at least one or two direct quotations, properly cited. You should use either MLA if your topic is in the humanities or APA for everything else. The *Penguin* has many examples of how to do parenthetical citations. (Only pdf files will have stable page numbers.) **You must also include a "Works Cited" (MLA) or "References" (APA) page.** If you are using an article downloaded from WebLUIIS, you must use proper Internet citation.

Format

The paper should be two pages, and in the correct format for the field of your topic. The paper and the article should each be stapled and then paper clipped together. They should then be put in your folder with your peer reviewed drafts.

Additional Resources

Please feel free to submit to the OWL or go to the Reading and Writing Center in SW Broward Hall for additional help.

Grading Criteria

An “A” paper will state the author, title, and the author’s thesis in the first few sentences of the introduction. An “A” paper will also analyze the article’s validity and make an argument about it in the introduction. The writer supports his/her thesis with evidence from the text and uses at least one direct quotation. The paper will introduce and integrate quotations smoothly with correct parenthetical citations. The writer uses a structure and organization that groups ideas clearly and uses transitions from one point to the next. The word choice is concise and the sentence structure active and direct. The paper has a correctly formatted “Works Cited” (MLA) or “References” (APA) page. An “A” paper will contain few or no grammatical or stylistic mistakes and has been carefully proofread.

This assignment is worth 50 points. I will automatically deduct five points if you don’t have a “Works Cited” or a “References” page. You will not receive credit for this assignment if you use a popular source, so if you’re unsure if your article is scholarly or not, feel free to show it to me.