**Assignment:** You will write and submit **two writing assignments:**

1. A 500-750 word**Assignment** in which youwillread,annotate,andsummarizeoneassigned academic essay published in a scholarly source.

**Prompt**

**Purpose**

In this assignment, you will:

* refine your critical reading and analytical reasoning skills by carefully identifying the components of an academic argument in a scholarly source.
* summarize, in your own words, the main points of an academic argument.

In this assignment, you will critically examine the ***argument*** in a scholarly article related to course themes**.**As you read the assigned essay, you will seek to fully understand *what the* ***writer’s argument****is* and describe *how the writer constructs the argument*. You are being asked to slow down and “listen” to what one scholar is arguing before rushing to judgment or expressing your opinion about the argument.

In this assignment, you will read the assigned scholarly essay, identify the components of the argument with annotations, and summarize the argument *in your own wordswithout evaluating it*. Do not use any outside sources, and do not bring in any outside material. In the process of annotating the text and summarizing the argument, you will practice and improve your critical reading and paraphrasing skills that you will continue to develop infuture writing assignments. Moreover, you will use them to evaluate scholarship, make your own arguments.

**Part II (30%) – Annotations: Identify and Label the Components of a Scholarly Argument (Skill: Analysis)**

You may choose to annotate electronically the assigned scholarly essay, or you may download and print the assigned essay and annotate it by hand. Whichever method you choose, As you read, annotate the text with labels and brief observations in the left and right margins of the text, noting how each paragraph contributes to the scholar’s argument.

**Left margin:** In the left margin next to each paragraph of the text, comment on what each paragraph *says*about the topic of the essay.

**Right margin:** In the right margin next to each paragraph of the text, comment on what each paragraph *does*to structure the argument. Ask yourself, “What is the purpose of each paragraph in making the scholar’s argument?

You should locate and label any or all of the following that apply. Make brief notes in the margins that answer any of the relevant *Questions to Consider* below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Label** | **Questions to consider . . .**  |
| Topic/Background | What is the topic of the essay? On which issue does the author focus? What background information did the author find it necessary to provide? |
| Source Credibility | How does the author indicate that you can trust the credibility of the article/argument? Consider author’s credentials, credentials of the publication, context, author’s perspective and motivation, date, credibility of evidence used, etc. |
| Problem  | What problem does the author raise and attempt to solve? How does this problem lead the author to ask their research question? |
| Question  | What question does the author pose (implicitly or explicitly)? |
| Thesis/Declaration | What is the answer to the author’s question or the solution to the problem posed? Where does the author state/re-state the thesis? |
| Claims | What claims does the author develop and support? |
| Evidence | What evidence is provided to support each claim? (In writing your summary, be specific when naming the evidence used by author.) Is each piece of evidence a: fact, example, metaphor, analogy, case study, statistic, testimony? Something else? |
| Counter-evidence/Counter-argument | Does the author refer to points of view different from their own? Where are the pieces of counter-evidence or counter-arguments addressed? Label all evidence. |
| Rebuttal | Does the author give reasons to explain the weakness of the counter-evidence/counter-argument, or explain why their claims are stronger than others’ claims? |
| Significance/implications | Does the author explain why the question or thesis is significant or suggest implications of the action plan?  |

**Part III (70%) – Summarizing the Argument (500+ words) (Skill: Synthesis)**

Now that you have identified *what* the scholar is arguing and *how* the argument is constructed, it’s time to demonstrate that you understand the argument. You do this by summarizing it and all its’ significant parts, in your own words.

**Summarize the Argument in the Essay.** State the main ideas and key points of the argument simply, objectively, and accurately in your own words in order to demonstrate that you understand the problem and question that the author raised and the argument made to address the problem or answer the question. Do not *judge* or *evaluate*the scholar’s argument in this first part; just explain it and all of its relevant components: the problem, question, thesis, claims, and evidence used to support the thesis. Pay attention to counter-arguments/evidence, how the author addresses the evidence supporting these alternative hypotheses, and how the author discusses the significance/implications of the thesis.

**Summarize the Markers of Credibility in the Essay.** Conclude your summary with a description of how the scholar indicated the credibility of the essay given the factors listed in the Source Credibility box above.

**Paraphrase and Cite**

To write a summary of the argument in 500-750 words, you will have to paraphrase the author’s ideas. This is an important, but difficult skill to master. Avoid including sentence-length or numerous quotations; rather, you should paraphrase the author’s ideas (*still in your own words*), quoting only exact terms, concepts, or data used by the author (along with an in-text citation) as necessary.You will still cite all paraphrased material, indicating the page number(s) from which this material comes. If you are not sure of the difference between a quotation, a paraphrase, a summary, or an in-text citation

In order to do well on this assignment, you must accomplish the following:

1. Annotations: Identify and label in the left margin what the authors *says* in each paragraph of the assigned essay.
2. Annotations: Identify and label in the right margin what each paragraph *does* to structure the argument:
	1. Topic/Background
	2. Problem
	3. Question (implicit or explicit)
	4. Thesis
	5. Claims
	6. Evidence
	7. Counter-evidence/argument
	8. Rebuttal
	9. Significance/implications
3. Summary: Write a 500-750 word, typed summary of the argument made in the essay (what the author *says*) and how the argument is constructed (what the author *does*).
4. Explain the connection between the problem and thesis in the essay
5. Identify the main claims and evidence used to demonstrate or prove the problem and to support the thesis
6. Discuss how the writer addresses the counter-arguments/evidence where relevant
7. Discuss how the writer addresses the significance/implications of the essay
8. Objectively paraphrase all ideas and summarize the argument *in your own words.*
9. Objectively explain the credibility, perspective and position of the author.
10. Provide in-text citations in MLA format where needed.
11. Provide a Works Cited page in MLA format.
12. Use clear, grammatically correct, stylistically effective expository prose.