• **Single-Source Analysis Assignment**

Summary and Analysis, page length: 3-4 pages

**Introduction**

As you move through your college courses, you will be asked to present arguments of one kind or another. Even reports that don’t make an overt argument nonetheless represent the writer’s version of the information and suggest to readers that their version is reasonable or correct. At the same time, you will often be asked to summarize what you have read and to critically analyze the argument presented by the author(s).

For this assignment, **you will summarize, analyze, and evaluate a piece of academic writing**. Working with a topic of your choice, you will practice scholarly research and find a critical article on your topic from an academic journal.

Using the skills you will learn in class on how to do research in the library database, plan to choose an article that uses critical analysis to discuss your topic. Your article of choice should offer serious theorizing that you will address through a summary as you analyze the claims the author(s) makes and evaluate the style of writing the rhetor uses to present their argument.

The readers of your Single-Source Analysis Assignment—your peers—should have an exact idea of the arguments made in the article without having the benefit of reading the article for themselves so consider how you will present than information.

**The Rhetorical Situation**

• **Consider the purpose** for your summary. Why are you presenting this information? Is it to teach readers about the subject? Is it to demonstrate your research and writing skills?

• **Who is your audience?** Who will read this summary? What do they need to know about the topic? What background information do they need in order to understand it? Will you need to define any terms? Why should anyone care about the argument the author(s) makes?

• **Be careful of your stance** when presenting your summary. What is your own attitude toward the topic? What interests you most about it? What about it seems important?
Ways of Organizing

You will want to begin by summarizing the article you are analyzing. Generally, this should not take up more than a third of your draft.

You should then move into presenting a critical analysis, including your opinion about the article. You should consider the following:

• An analysis of the writer’s purpose and how well it was achieved.

• Recognizing the audience for this text. How does this affect the ways in which the information in the text is conveyed?

• A statement concerning whether you agree or disagree with the writer’s position on the topic. What persuades you (or not)?

• How the author(s) addresses the Rhetorical Appeals, their application of ethos, pathos and logos. How does this impact the reader?

Finally, offer a discussion of key points found in the article and how such points affect you as a reader of the text. Consider:

• The author’s expertise in the field

• The author’s bias

• The journal’s ethos: is it peer reviewed? Considered a major or minor journal in the field? How do you know?

The key to this assignment is not to make an argument about the topic—this is not an argument essay!—but to address how the author has rhetorically structured their article about the topic they have addressed in their writing.

Be sure to quote, paraphrase, or summarize passages from the article and correctly cite these using the appropriate citation style specifics for your field of study. You must include at least one direct quote and citation for any information that you summarized or paraphrased. Be sure to include a Works Cited page, properly formatted.

See the syllabus for formatting specifics. The due date for this assignment is listed in the Weekly Schedule.

NOTE: Because this assignment is due with the Portfolio Assignment, this assignment will not run through the Peer Response process. This does not mean, however, that you are not welcome to form a peer group and seek a peer read on your own. See the syllabus for formatting specifics. The due date for this assignment is listed in the Weekly Schedule.