Essay #2: Critical Response

DUE: March 30th (E-mailed and hard copy)

First draft: March 9th Second Draft: March 23rd

20% of final grade

4-5 Pages

**ESSAY OVERVIEW:**

In your first essay, you were asked to tell your own story and I commented on it. In this essay, you are being asked to comment on the work of someone else. For your critical response essay you are to select one of the articles we have read in class (Ivins, White and Arp, Lunsford, or Guerrero). After selecting an article, you will spend time trying to understand the author’s argument as well as how the author makes that argument. In your essay, you should demonstrate your understanding of the article as well as your own critical thinking by doing the following: briefly summarize the article to show you understand what the author is saying, provide a critique of the article with a focus on the author’s argument, and incorporate evidence from the article to support your critique. This essay serves as a bridge between the first and third assignments, providing you the opportunity to practice both summarizing and analyzing the texts that you read, skills that you will continue to use throughout your college career and beyond.

**Grading Criteria:**

In order to do well, your essay should do the following:

* Select one of the four articles: Ivins, White and Arp, Lunsford, or Guerrero
* Summarize the article briefly, including the main argument and main points
* Critique the article, both what it does well and what it could have done differently. Is the article convincing? You may refer to your own experiences to support your critique and should reference some of the rhetorical strategies we have discussed in class
* Provide support for your critique by quoting or paraphrasing from the article with proper MLA citation
* Be mindful of sentence style and structure (including word choice, grammar and spelling)
* Include a works cited page (which does not go towards word count)
* Show revision and improvement from first to final draft
* Follows attached rubric
* Meet the minimum page requirement listed above (4-5 pages)
* Be completed and turned in on or before the due date (including drafts)
* Adhere to proper MLA format (double spaced, Times New Roman 12pt font, 1-inch margins, proper page heading shown below:

|  |
| --- |
| Last Name #  Student Name    Professor X    English 111    DATE    Informative and Engaging Title      Start first paragraph here……. |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Needs Improvement** | **Unacceptable** |
| **CONTENT (80)** |  |  |  |  |
| THESIS: the essay makes a clear claim about the effectiveness of the article | 5 | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| READING: The essay demonstrates comprehension of the selected article, including the author’s thesis and main rhetorical strategies | 15 | 12 | 9 | 0 |
| SUMMARY: The essay provides an adequate summary of the selected article, but does not dwell on it for too long | 10 | 8 | 6 | 0 |
| ANALYSIS: The essay analyzes the  effectiveness and development of the  selected article, using a mixture of  personal evidence and a focus on  rhetorical strategies | 20 | 16 | 12 | 0 |
| USE OF EVIDENCE: The essay incorporates quotes and paraphrases from the selected article in a thoughtful manner, and in proper MLA format | 15 | 12 | 9 | 0 |
| ORGANIZATION: The essay is arranged in a clear and logical manner, with body paragraphs that build on one another to support the thesis | 15 | 12 | 9 | 0 |
| **STYLE (20 points)** |  |  |  |  |
| WRITING STYLE: Student is aware of  intended audience and caters writing  style to that audience. Student uses a  variety of sentence structures and styles  in a way that is engaging for the reader. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| MECHANICS: Student shows clear evidence of proof reading and has been thoroughly checked for spelling and grammatical issues. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| FORMAT: Student follows strict MLA  Format including works cited page and  meets minimum page count requirement | 10 | 8 | 6 | 0 |

NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CRITICAL ANALYSIS RUBRIC

COMMENTS: