

from Denise Grady - "The Secret Life of a Potent Cell"

"Who Cares?"

Scientists used to think body fat and the cells it was made of were pretty much inert, just an oily storage compartment. But within the past decade research has shown that fat cells act like chemical factories and that body fat is potent stuff: a highly active tissue that secretes hormones and other substances with profound and sometimes harmful effects...

In recent years, biologists have begun calling fat an "endocrine organ," comparing it to glands like the thyroid and pituitary, which also release hormones straight into the bloodstream.

"So What?"

Researchers trying to decipher the biology of fat cells hope to find new ways to help people get rid of excess fat, or, at least, prevent obesity from destroying their health. In an increasingly obese world, their efforts have taken on added importance.

Internationally, more than a billion people are overweight. Obesity and two illnesses linked to it, heart disease and high blood pressure, are on the World Health Organization's list of the top 10 global health risks. In the United States, 65 percent of adults weigh too much, compared with about 56 percent a decade ago, and government researchers blame obesity for at least 300,000 deaths a year.

Return once more to the three articles from your "Three Ways to Respond" activity and use those articles to answer the following questions:

1. Do the authors answer the "so what?" or "who cares?" questions? If so, what are their answers?
2. Where in their essays do they seek to answer these questions? (beginning, middle, end)
3. Do they come out and state the significance of their arguments explicitly, or do they rely on implied meanings?

Article #1 - "The Civil War Was Not a Mistake"

- 1- yes, so what
- 2- in the middle.
- 3- they come out and state the sig

Article #2 - "Pondering the Question of Confederate Honor"

- 1- yes, who cares.
- 2- in the beginning.
- 3- they rely on implied meanings.

Article #3 - "Lost Cause"

- 1- NO
- 2- end
- 3- They come out and state the significance of their arguments explicitly.

Soon, for your research paper, you will be making your own argument about Confederate statues and monuments—and you will be asked to explain who cares and/or why your argument matters. **In the space below, brainstorm your answers to each of the questions.**

Who Cares?

For this question, consider: Who are you responding to? Who else is part of this conversation? Who *should* care?

So What?

For this question, consider: What is at stake in this argument? Why is it important? What broader relevance does this argument have? Why might there be a reason for urgency here?

Often, simply saying that something is important is not enough to persuade the audience of this claim. Instead, providing evidence and support for the broader applications, relevance, or stakes involved is necessary in order to drive home the significance of your argument. Look over your answers to the “So what?” question and find places where you can conduct research to provide evidence in support.

Make notes about your research below, including information about the source (pewresearch.org, *The Washington Post*, Southern Poverty Law Center).

Putting Your Answers into Sentences

Use one of the templates below to take one of your answers from the last page and begin to frame that answer in a complete, coherent sentence.

Who Cares?

So What?

Templates for Indicating Who Cares

_____ used to think _____. But recently _____ suggest that _____.

This interpretation challenges the work of those critics who have long argued that _____.

These findings challenge the work of earlier researches, who tended to assume that _____.

Recent studies like these shed new light on _____, which previous studies had not addressed.

If _____ stopped to think about it, many of them might simply assume that _____. However, new research shows _____.

These findings challenge the common assumption of _____ that _____.

At first glance, _____ might say _____. But on closer inspection _____.

Templates for Establishing Why Your Claims Matter

_____ matters because _____.

Although _____ may seem trivial, it is in fact crucial in terms of today's concern over _____.

Ultimately, what is at stake here is _____.

These findings have important implications for the broader issue of _____.

If we are right about _____, then major consequences follow for _____.

These conclusions will have significant applications in _____ as well as in _____.

Although _____ may seem of concern to only a small group of _____, it should in fact concern anyone who cares about _____.