

Assignment objectives:

1. To expand your knowledge beyond the information provided in this course through independent research (a life-long-learning skill)
2. To practice your research skills of searching in library databases and properly citing sources according to the Chicago Manual of Style (CMoS)

Prompt:

Pick one designer covered in the lectures already presented in class.

Find a scholarly article in the library's databases written about that designer's work (any aspect or phase you are interested in). A scholarly article will give citations for its claims (footnotes or endnotes) and present original findings or make an original argument. So, even though some use endnotes or footnotes, encyclopedia articles do not count. The article must be substantive, at least ten pages long.

The article must have been published between 2000 and the present. (Note: it might take you a while to find one that interests you and that you understand well. Budget time for the exploratory search. Also, enjoy it. There is much interesting information you will discover along the way.)

I recommend using the JStor database to find articles in this subject area. You can use OneSearch to expand the possibilities, but avoid articles from fields, like medicine, or journals, like medical journals (e.g.: *JAMA*), which may not be sufficiently relevant to the history of design—at least not for the purposes of this assignment.

Write an essay in which you critically evaluate whether or not you find the author's argument convincing.

To do this, tell the reader what the author's argument is and whether or not you find it convincing in a thesis paragraph. Then go on to evaluate why or why not. This will entail identifying key points of supporting evidence or reasoning the author uses and why or why not that evidence or reasoning satisfies you. A good organization scheme is to evaluate each point of evidence or reasoning in a distinct body paragraph.

Throughout your essay, you must properly cite the pages of your source when appropriate and in the notes-bibliography style recommended by the *CMoS*. (See

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html) for a quick reference guide). Even though there is only one source, at the end of your paper, provide a properly formatted bibliography entitled "Bibliography." The bibliography need not be on a separate page. Do not bother with a title page, even though the Chicago style mentions it.

How to insert endnotes or footnotes: You should insert endnotes or footnotes at the end of the sentence or group of sentences in which you present the information from the source. When you get to the end of the sentence where you want to insert a footnote or endnote, place your cursor at that location. Your word-processing program should have a menu that allows you to "Insert---footnote." Most likely, you'll be able to choose whether you want to generate a footnote or endnote. Choose which one you want. Automatically, one will appear, and you will write your citation in proper CMOS format there.

Do not drop in a computer-generated citation of your source(s). These often don't distinguish between note and bibliography formats.

Note: The bibliography should be the final part of your paper, after the endnotes, if you have those, or footnotes, if those appear on your last page.

Essential to doing a good job on this assignment:

1. Always maintain the distinction between your words and ideas and the author's. This means that you must avoid running your words together with a quotation from the author. The reader must always know who is speaking and whether statements about the subject of the author's text are yours or the author's.

Example of a bad practice:

Picasso then "painted in a manner...."

Example of a better practice:

As AuthorFirstname Lastname points out, Picasso then "painted in a manner...."

2. Your job is to evaluate the author's argument. That means that your thesis has to address whether or not you think the author did a convincing job. A brief summary of the author's argument is not by itself a thesis. It is a necessary part of the thesis paragraph, but not the thesis itself. The thesis must be your statement in the introductory paragraph about whether or not you believe the author's argument is convincing.
3. When presenting your brief summary of the author's argument in your introductory paragraph, avoid quoting from the author here. Here, it is best

to paraphrase the author's argument, keeping all of the words in your introduction your own. This enables you to better control the pacing of information you present to the reader. Quotations from the author often require contextualization. They assume information that you cannot provide easily and in the proper order in the introduction. Also, it is important, as the author of your own essay, to establish your own voice in the introduction.

4. Avoid the common mistake, in the body of your essay, of simply summarizing the author's points of argument. Remember that your job is to prove YOUR thesis, not the author's. That means every paragraph of the body needs to make and support YOUR point about whether or not the author's particular points of evidence or reasoning are convincing.
5. Remember that your thesis should not decide whether or not you agree with the author's main argument. The thesis should instead decide whether or not you believe the author has effectively supported that argument. You don't have to personally agree with an author's conclusion to concede that it was well argued. At the same time, you might agree with an author's conclusion and think that the author does not make a good case for it.
6. Never refer to the author of an article by their first name. The first reference to the author should be to Firstname Lastname and each reference thereafter should be to Lastname.
7. Your *CMoS* citation formatting should make this point obvious, but seeing this mistake in countless student papers, I am compelled to underline the point: Article titles go in quotation marks, not italics. Journal titles and book titles go in italics.

Resources to help you write an effective evaluation of an author's argument:

A good explanation of the thinking you need to do to analyze the effectiveness of an author's argument:

<https://www.brainfuse.com/jsp/alc/resource.jsp?s=gre&c=37192&cc=108840>

A good explanation of how to write an essay analyzing the effectiveness of an author's argument:

<http://content.nroc.org/DevelopmentalEnglish/unit09/Foundations/creating-a-thesis-and-an-outline-for-a-critical-analysis-essay.html>

When handing in your essay:

- 1. Your text must be double-spaced, 12-point font, with one-inch margins.**
- 2. Upload it to Blackboard in the specified folder.**
- 3. Make sure you get a message from TurnItIn that says your submission was successful.** If you don't receive that message, the paper did not upload. Try again until you get this message. If you continue to have no success, use a library computer and try again.
NOTE: Ultimately, it is your responsibility to make sure your work gets to me. If your paper won't show up on Blackboard, you must immediately email it to me as a backup so that you get credit for on-time submission. If you do not do this, I must assume you have no plans to turn the assignment in and will accept 0 points. I will not pursue you to turn in your assignment.

Note on grading for all written assignments:

The weight I give to each criterion in the Grading Rubric may vary. This is due to the fact that a student's performance in any one area may be especially good or bad that it disproportionately affects the work's overall quality.

Note on feedback for all written assignments:

Please refer to the document entitled "Key to Symbols Used for Feedback on Written Work" to decipher the abbreviations I use in the margins of your papers to alert you to specific types of errors. This document is posted on Blackboard, next to the Grading Rubric. For further feedback, make sure to sign up for the professor's office hours.

- To retrieve the feedback on your essay, go to the same place you uploaded it, and click on "View/Complete."