

Critical Analysis Paper

For this assignment, you will respond in writing to an academic article that relates to a topic we are studying in class (history and development of computers, hacking, the hacker ethic, and virtue ethics, whatever). If you are uncertain about an article and its relation to our class, see me and I will approve it or clarify the assignment for you.

Also, if you are unsure what an academic article is, you may consult the syllabus, ask me, or ask a librarian. Your task is to find and read an academic article and respond to it using the criteria listed below. College level writing will be expected and the assignment will utilize the writing rubric in the syllabus. Along with your essay, submit an MLA works cited page that references the article you read. Your analysis should be double spaced and use 12 pt. Times New Roman font.

Here is the template to follow:

Paragraph 1: Explain the main purpose of the article. Briefly summarize the article. In this paragraph, you are trying to state, as accurately as possible, the author's purpose for writing the article. Answer the question, "what was the author trying to accomplish?" Use evidence from the article to support this paragraph with MLA style in text citations.

Paragraph 2: Describe and explain the key question that the author or authors are addressing. Your goal in this paragraph is to figure out the key question that was in the mind of the author when s/he wrote the article. Use evidence from the article to support this paragraph with MLA style in text citations.

Paragraph 3: Describe and explain the most important information in this article. Here you want to identify and explicate the key information the author used (or presupposed) to support his or her main arguments. You are looking for the facts, data, experiences the author used to support his argument. Use evidence from the article to support this paragraph with MLA style in text citations.

Paragraph 4: Describe and explain the main inferences and conclusions in the article. You want to identify the most important conclusions that the author comes to and presents in the article. You should be able to explain *why* the author comes to the conclusions he or she does, not simply restate the author's conclusions. Use evidence from the article to support this paragraph with MLA style in text citations.

Paragraph 5: Describe and explain the key ideas the reader needs to understand in this article. To identify these ideas, ask yourself: What are the most important ideas that you would have to understand in order to understand the author's line of reasoning? Then, briefly elaborate what author means by these ideas. Use evidence from the article to support this paragraph with MLA style in text citations.

Paragraph 6: Reflect on what you learned from this article. Was there something you learned that you didn't know before you read the article? What did you find as the most important idea of the paper? What was most significant to you about the ideas in this paper. This will be your summary and conclusion paragraph.