

Overview

The ability to read carefully and draw conclusions from your reading can help you discover more about ideas that are important to you. In this module we are exploring the American identity, an idea that is often debated. For the close analysis essay, you will thoughtfully and critically read an article about the American identity. Then, you will write, as a method for thinking carefully about the presentation of ideas in one passage of the article.

You should spend approximately 4 hours on this assignment.

Instructions

1. In the Discussion 2: Annotation and Textual Analysis Practice discussion, you were provided a specific article to analyze. For this essay assignment, you will choose another article on the same topic to analyze.
2. The CCCOnline Library provides access to [scholarly research databases](#). You can also access these databases from a link provided on your D2L home page.
3. Once you are on the research databases page, scroll down to find the [Global Issues in Context](#) database. Select this database. Then select "Database Login." Log in with your S#.
4. Enter "American Identity" in the search box. Then, click the Global Viewpoints tab. Limit your search by clicking "Editorial" on the right side of the page (under "Limit Search By"). Choose one of the remaining articles to read for this assignment.
5. Closely read and annotate the article. (Hint: You can use the Highlights and Notes tool on the right side of the reading panel to annotate online.)
6. Choose just one paragraph of the article, or two consecutive paragraphs if they are less than four sentences each, to analyze for this essay.
7. **Pre-Write:** Think about the answers to the following questions:
 - What is the article's thesis or purpose? What is this paragraph's topic or purpose?
 - What is the paragraph's tone? Is the writing formal or informal? Is it emotional or logical? Humorous or serious? Is it angry, sad, defensive, excited, compassionate, concerned, critical, frustrated, light-hearted, or worried?
 - Are there any words or language choices that stand out to you?
 - Does the writer use descriptive or figurative language? Does the writer repeat certain words?
 - Does the writer use dialogue/quotations, narration, description, or definitions?
 - How is this paragraph organized? Do you see patterns in the ideas or the sentences?
 - Why do you think the writer made these choices? What effect do they

have on the reader? What conclusions can you draw from your understanding of these choices?

8. **Write: Construct an essay analyzing the details you find significant about this paragraph. *This should not be a summary of or response to the content of the paragraph, but a detailed analysis of the words, tone, language, organization, purpose, etc. of the paragraph.***

- **Create an introduction and thesis statement that show your overall assessment of the paragraph.**
 - **Use topic sentences and transitions to organize your body paragraphs. Your topic sentences should state your observations and conclusions.**
 - **Develop specific evidence for your ideas. Quote specific words and phrases from the paragraph that support your claims and conclusions. Use MLA Style in-text citations for each quotation.**
 - **Construct a conclusion paragraph that synthesizes your main points and offers closure.**
 - **Your essay should be about 750 words.**
 - **Your only source is the article you analyze; you should not use any additional sources for this assignment.**
9. Be sure to use MLA Style to format this assignment. Apply MLA Style to all aspects of the paper, including the heading, title page, proper paragraph indentation and spacing, font, margins, size, etc. (For this assignment, a Works Cited page is not required.) Need help with MLA? Please refer to the [CCOnline MLA Citation Toolkit](#) or consult the [Purdue OWL](#) for more information.
10. Proofread your work before submission.
11. Submit your assignment to the **Module 2 Assignment folder: Close Analysis Essay**

Full Text:

LEAD: Just a short walk east of the Liberty Bell, the National Museum of Jewish History is celebrating the freedoms of speech and religion in a major exhibit, "A People in Print: Jewish Journalism in America."

Just a short walk east of the Liberty Bell, the National Museum of Jewish History is celebrating the freedoms of speech and religion in a major exhibit, "A People in Print: Jewish Journalism in America."

Since the late 18th century, Jewish journalists have "hammered out the idea, the identity, of the American Jew," said Dr. Kenneth Libo, the curator who organized the exhibition, which runs through Dec. 31. Jewish newspapers, he said, published in English, Yiddish, Hebrew, German and Ladino, a Spanish-Jewish dialect, have provided a special forum for Jewish concerns and have served as advocates for these concerns in wider society.

In the earliest American newspapers, Jews participated in letters, notices and

advertisements. A 1790 issue of The Providence Gazette and Country Journal printed letters between George Washington and the Jewish community of Newport, R.I. Washington wrote that the new American Government "gives to bigotry no sanction." Growth of Jewish Press

As the Jewish population grew in the first half of the 19th century, newspapers were founded to serve Jewish communities. The first, The Jew, published in New York City, lasted only from 1823 until 1825. The most successful of the early papers was The Occident, founded in 1843 in Philadelphia by Isaac Leeser, who championed traditional Judaism at a time of growing interest in reform Judaism. Through the second half of the 19th century, Jewish papers flourished around the country: The Israelite in Cincinnati, The Jewish Voice in St. Louis, The Jewish Spectator in Memphis, The Occident in Chicago. Most carried local news and editorials, but news concerning Jews from around the world was also included: "The Judaic Museum has been opened as a separate department of the Louvre," reported The Hebrew in 1891. "The German Antisemitenbund has issued the programme of the anti-Semite party in the form of a flysheet, and invites membership. The only original feature about the programme is that the list of members will be kept secret."

By the turn of the 20th century, some Jewish publishers were focusing on specialized audiences, with fraternal society papers for men, school publications for children, women's magazines for homemakers and The Jewish Farmer for rural Jews. History on Videotape

The exhibition also offers video presentations, including Iphigene Ochs Sulzberger recalling her life as the daughter of Adolph Ochs, who became publisher of The New York Times in 1896 when she was nearly 4 years old, and of Zero Mostel reading letters from the "Bintel Brief" column of The Jewish Forward, which is still published in Manhattan weekly in Yiddish.

The National Museum of Jewish History, which opened in 1976, is at 55 North Fifth Street, adjacent to Independence National Historical Park. It is open Monday through Thursday, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., Friday, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M., and Sunday, 12 to 5 p.m. Admission is \$1.75 for adults, \$1.50 for students and senior citizens, and \$1.25 for children.

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