

CRITICAL ARTICLE HANDOUT

Sharing Knowledge with Colleagues



What issues does the author explain or focus on? How does the writer respond to what others have said about the topic and what new idea is being added to the discussion? What evidence and examples does the author use to prove a main argument? What topics/concepts/issues does the author bring up as important for scholars and readers to consider, and what opinion about these ideas are presented in the text?

Requirements

- 1) **Thesis Statement:** Identify what the writer is trying to prove clearly on your handout, labeling it as the author's thesis. Usually a thesis is one- two sentences and can be found in the initial paragraphs of the essay, reiterated in the article's conclusion.
- 2) **Three or More Key Quotes from the Article (cited with page number in MLA):** Choose short segments or phrases to share an idea the author expresses in a way that really gets a key concept across well, offering a key takeaway from the article.
- 3) **Three or More Relevant Primary Texts (adolescent books, etc):** Briefly describe/summarize the books, films, or other YA texts that the article uses to make it's argument as well as how each contributes to the argument the author makes.
- 4) **Three or More Scholarly Resources for Further Reading:** What additional sources would be useful for someone wanting to learn more? Students typically include these in a short bibliography and they can often be found in the author's works cited page.
- 5) **Three or More Definitions of Related Terms:** Include terms or concepts that are related to or connected to the main idea of your article. For these, be clear about how the term/concept is related to the author's thesis and offer definitions to explain each term.

Instructions

Create: Choose an article and due date from the sign up sheet on e-learning and create a handout that provides a detailed explanation of the article's main point for your colleagues in an easy to read, stylish form. On the due date, bring copies of your handout to pass out to the class. The handout should be only one sheet in length (single or double-sided).

Printing: As part of copy card printing for the course, Dr. Meeusen will print black and white copies of your handout for you if you email it as a PDF at least 48 hours in advance if it being due. Otherwise, please bring 22 copies.

Make a Snazzy Handout

Consider the design/layout of your handout carefully, as the most successful handouts are not only eye-catching and easy to read, but offer quick, succinct information that your colleagues can scan and understand in only a few minutes. Make sure that you draw attention to your main ideas and consider spacing and design elements. Think about how you might use fonts, text boxes, bold or other format choices, headings, images, etc—these can be useful tools to create a snazzy handout that delivers content well and engages readers so that they can easily synthesize information. And use space wisely—you want as much information as possible in this small space!

Sharing with Your Colleagues

During class, you'll have a few minutes to share what you have learned from studying the article, describing any main points or resources that relate to the week's reading and would be useful for your colleagues to know. Be prepared to also answer a few questions about the article.