

Instructions for Article Critiques

An article critique is a clear and concise evaluation of the claims/assertions made in the article and evidence used to support it. Your critique must discuss the following topics:

1. Source

Briefly evaluate the reliability of the source of the article and the author?

See Feder's Quick Start Guide: pp xviii-xix for suggestions.

2. Claim/Assertion

What is the main claim or assertion of the article?

3. Evidence

What evidence is used to support this claim?

4. Problems?

Does the evidence support the claim? Specify why or why not? Are there other problems with the evidence? Use concepts from the course where appropriate.

5. Testing the claim

How could the claim be tested or further evaluated with other types of evidence?

Article critiques should be no longer than THREE double spaced typed. Submit your critiques as a Word or PDF document. Each critique is worth 25 points (see rubric on Canvas) and 10% of your course grade.

Articles

The first article that you will critique is *The Solutrean Solution*, and the second is *Trashing America's "Politically Incorrect" Prehistory* (see Canvas Assignments). For the third and fourth critiques, you will choose a current, popular science article or news story to critique (see suggestions on Canvas).

Academic Conduct

1. Be careful not to plagiarize the article you are critiquing.
2. You may discuss your critique with a fellow classmate, but DO NOT write your critiques together. This is not a group project, and you must turn in your own work. Papers that are nearly identical will result in a zero for both students.

See this UM [link](#) for examples of plagiarism and inappropriate collaboration.

Late Policy

A point per day past the due date will be deducted from your article critique. If you have extenuating circumstances and cannot turn in an article critique on time, you must email Lisa Young and your GSI before the critique due date. In your email, explain to us why you will not be able to hand in the critique on time and when you anticipate turning it in. We will attempt to accommodate your circumstances, if possible.

Section of Critique	Excellent	Good	Adequate
Source (3 pts)	Clearly stated evaluation of author and source includes strategies used to present argument (3)	More detailed analysis of author and source (2)	General description of author and source (1)
Claim/Assertion (3 pts)	Very clear and concise statement of main claim or argument made in the article (3)	Good description but missing some of nuances (2)	Superficial discussion of interpretation (1)
Evidence and Problems (6 pts)	Detailed description of evidence and well developed analysis of evidence (6)	Good summary of evidence, evaluation could be more thorough (4)	Identifies most of evidence, evaluation of evidence is superficial (3)
Ways of testing the claim (4 pts)	Excellent discussion of ways to test the claim made in the article and appropriate uses concepts from course (4)	Proposes ways of testing but shallow, limited use of concepts from course (3)	No or superficial discussion of how to test the main claim made in the article (2)
Clarity and organization of writing (4 pts)	Very clearly written and well organized (4)	Clearly written but problems with organization and logic (3)	Unorganized (2)
On time (5 pts)	5 points for on-time critique	Late: 0.5 pts for each day after due date. Article critiques will not be accept 10 days after the due date	

Critique length: three pages double spaced

Note: for Article Critiques 3 and 4 the quality of the article you choose will also be taken into consideration in the points awarded for clarity and organization.