

Guidelines and Options for Completing Your Article of the Week (AoW) Response

Every Monday you will be assigned to critically read and annotate a piece of writing. Your response will always be due on Friday. Most Fridays you will also be quizzed on the article. Quiz questions are at the end of the article.

The Article of the Week is a large activity. It requires independent thought, analysis of information, judgment of the opinions of others, and a recognition of patterns of thought and rhetoric. In short, you will read the article several times to understand it well. At the beginning of the semester, I will guide you through the first AoWs and what you need to do; after that, you will be expected to produce a mini-essay response each week that improves in every way; I will expect you to learn to do them with more skill as the year progresses.

Annotating the article:

1. Highlight important, interesting, or confusing phrases
2. Write questions you have near the parts that are confusing or that you would like to answer in your response, make predictions of possible answers
3. Use your AoW vocab list to analyze what the author is doing (Illustrating, asserting, analyzing, etc.)
4. Write what you think about ideas as you read, challenge the author's opinions
5. Write what you agree or disagree with and why, make judgments
6. Make connections as you read; does this sound like anything else we've read?
7. Notice the words and tone the author uses. Choose a few words to analyze. Why are they there, are they (or their synonyms repeated)?
8. What other patterns do you notice? Sentence structure, rhetoric, logic (or lack thereof.)

Responding to the article:

Choose a way to respond, do not summarize the article!!! There is a handout with directions for options 1-4. Responses must be at least 400 words (unless otherwise stated):

1. SOAPStone (Speaker, Occasion, Audience, Purpose, Subject, Tone)
2. Circles of Reflection: Connect to self, family, peers, community, country, humankind
3. Responding to Persuasive Writing: SMELL
4. Respond in essay format to some of the questions at the end. Include an intro and concluding paragraph and use a quote from the article when answering each question.
5. For Poems: TPCASTT

Other Requirements:

1. You must use at least 3 AoW vocabulary words in your response. Underline or highlight them. In doing so you will identify the author's method to deliver the information or argument. The author asserts, illustrates, or analyzes...
2. To start each response, you need to cite the title and author. You should briefly identify the main facts or arguments in the article.

- An example of a starter for your response would be:

Most people think that graduating from high school only has economic benefits; however, the news article “U.S. Surgeon General Says Less Education Means Higher Mortality Rates” by Willoughby Mariano, asserts that statistics about death in America show that people without a high school diploma are more likely to die young than those without.

- As you continue your response, you must use a quote from the article (this does not have to be a person being quoted in the article; it can be anything stated in the piece). Write commentary about that quote and explain why the author uses the quote, what purpose does it serve in the article.
- Conclude the response with some observations of your own, refer to the text but also explain the universal relevance of what is revealed through your analysis.