

SEASIAN50 Bi-Weekly Response Guidelines

Every other week (Weeks, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10), you will be expected to take one of the assigned journal articles or book chapters and write a brief analytical response essay. Your response should be 300-400 words in length (roughly a bit more than a page), should consist of at least three paragraphs and include the following:

- One paragraph in which you provide a concise summary of the author's main point(s). In other words, what is the central thing they are arguing? This is the key to your response essay, as it will demonstrate your understanding of what the author is trying to do. Only after determining this, will you be able to evaluate the article in terms of whether the author has succeeded or not.
- A second paragraph in which you briefly cite the specific evidence that the author provides to support the argument that she or he is trying to make. This may take the form of statistics, of interviews, of documents, but all of it should directly speak to the author's argument.
- A third paragraph in which you assess the article in terms of how convincing the author's argument was, how helpful their evidence was in supporting the argument, and then any criticisms you might want to offer where you felt the author fell short.

Notes:

- 1) Please don't criticize the article for what it does NOT do. Don't write about what you "wish" the author had done. If there is a glaring omission then you may certainly mention it, but in general please engage with what is actually in the article or chapter in question.
- 2) Comparative observations are very welcome, and if you can offer criticisms or observations that draw on other readings, lecture, or things you know about other cases, please feel free to include them.
- 3) Write for an outsider audience, not your instructor. By this I mean that you should not assume insider knowledge on the part of the reader of your essay (they have not read the article, and are not taking this class), and so need to spell out the details as clearly as possible so that anyone could pick up your essay and understand what you are writing.
- 4) In critiquing the article, please avoid using the word "interesting" and other equally vague terminology. Using precise language is always more helpful and more convincing to your reader.