Advanced Composition
Dr. Silvio

Analytical Essay
Length 3-5 pages

For this assignment, you must find an argumentative article that relates to your topic and analyze and evaluate it. In other words, you will both explain how the author’s argument works and whether or not it is successful.

When analyzing the article consider:

What is the main claim (thesis)?

What are the supporting claims or ideas that support the main claim?

What sorts of evidence and appeals to values or emotion does the author use?

Then, evaluate:

Do the author’s claims make sense logically?

Does the evidence support the claims? You may wish to revisit the section on evaluating evidence in our textbook (163-70).

Is there anything that the author has not considered?

Has the author used any logical fallacies?

Basically, you can evaluate any aspect of the essay here.

In short, you will be evaluating this essay in much the same way that we analyze the essays from our textbook in class.

Your essay should be approximately half analysis and half evaluation, though you can organize it, however you want.

You must turn in a photocopy of your original source with the finished essay.