

As formal secondary sources, scholarly articles develop an argument derived from analysis of primary sources – precisely what we have been doing all semester. And like their informal kin, reviews, they do much more than grade a film; they consider how it influences and is influenced by culture. Of our two useful approaches, *immanent reading* and *historical contextualization*, criticism often employs the latter, using historical knowledge to make sense of a text and perhaps to resolve contradictions. In this assignment, you will *compare and contrast three (3) separate articles of the same film and topic*, assess their arguments and method. Then you will make a claim about a trend you see linking these three pieces. To restate – you will not be merely summarizing their claims, but analyzing their rhetoric and evidence choices to make your own argument about the articles.

### Step One: Collecting Voices

Start collecting articles and books that analyze and consider your film – especially its cultural impact and reception history. Each should be from a peer-reviewed academic publication; if you stick to the databases I’ve suggested below, you shouldn’t have to worry about checking. This means no popular magazines, newspapers, or blogs. Find six that could work and post them to your Omeka website, including their MLA bibliographic citations using the stable URL. You will write about the three most relevant to your research. Here are some places to get started:

- Book library search engine: <http://vufind.carli.illinois.edu/vf-uiu>
  - Book chapters and anthologies or articles can be incredibly rich resources
  - First time using our databases? Check out this handy guide: [http://www.library.illinois.edu/learn/find/article\\_subject.html](http://www.library.illinois.edu/learn/find/article_subject.html)
- Article database search engine: <http://openurl.library.uiuc.edu/sfxlcl3/az>
  - We have access to a huge amount of topical databases. Some of my favorites: JSTOR, Project MUSE, and Academic Search Premiere.

### Step Two: Analyzing Critical Claims

Take your time selecting three rich secondary sources that will give you lots to work with. Keep in mind that they should pertain to one another and to the kinds of questions you’ve been asking about how these sources are in conversation with one another. A few tips:

- **Start With One:** You might find it helpful to start with just one secondary source, and have the questions it raises lead you to the next secondary source for more information or another perspective. In the course of writing this essay you should argue for the relevance of each secondary source to your question.
- **Not A Book Report:** Ask yourself: What does each source contribute to a larger argument? What about it is exigent? So, what? Rather than a mere summary of your secondary sources, you should strive to speak back to them and let them speak to each other. Your goal is to interpret and analyze these sources, which is far more interesting and meaningful than simply to summarize and report back.
- **Take A Stand:** Derive an argument from what you discover about these sources rather than vice versa. Constantly evaluate their claims and measure their conclusions against each other and your own close reading of them.

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### Deadlines

- By **October 24** post only the MLA bibliographic citations of the critical articles you found useful as “items” to your [Omeka](#) website. (Fair Use laws are very unclear here, so to be safe this is all you need do.) Create a “Collection” grouping together the items that support the analysis

## Omeka Exhibit: Criticism Essay

in your essay, including parts of your analysis in the description field to clarify what the argument of each is for a visitor.

- ➔ By **October 25** submit your essay (2–3 pages) to [Compass](#) as well as bring a hard copy to submit in class. Make sure to include a Works Cited page following the MLA format (p. 561 in *The Film Experience*) and guidelines in the syllabus.

### Omeka Tips & Tricks

- Check out the how-to guide: <http://tinyurl.com/d22m3do>
- See the sample website: <http://tavaresengl104.omeka.net>

Student Name: [Sample Rubric]

Final Grade:

Criteria	Superior	Satisfactory	Adequate	Unsatisfactory	Unacceptable
1) A central and specific <i>arguable claim</i> , which is clearly articulated in the introduction, and sustained throughout the paper.					
2) Addresses all <i>assignment</i> components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses three (3) secondary, peer-reviewed sources.</li> <li>• Corresponding online posts have been made to <i>Omeka</i>.</li> </ul>					
3) Sustains thoughtful <i>analysis</i> and effectively employs <i>evidence</i> .					
4) At the sentence level as well as a whole, the essay is clearly <i>organized</i> and follows a logical progression.					
5) <i>Format, mechanics</i> , and <i>proofreading</i> meet course standards, including a Works Cited page.					

Comments: