

For essay 1, you should demonstrate your ability to **analyze** an argument and **form a critical response**. Critical Response or the ability to interrogate the content of an article or any other piece of writing and the author's strategy of achieving his or her intended purpose is a cornerstone of academic reading and writing. A critical response essay can identify both the strengths and weaknesses of a text; however, writers should seek to present their evidence without exaggeration of their significance in a text.

The Task

Write a thesis-driven essay based on your own critical reading of "[Schools and Businesses Should Not Promote Diversity](#) ↓" by Heather Mac Donald.

NOTE: This assignment is due at the end of week two, and we will spend these first two weeks reviewing key reading and writing conventions and processes that should serve you well on this and future essays. I encourage you to work with Philip, your peers, and myself to narrow your focus and develop a compelling thesis for your paper.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will compose an organized and thesis-driven paper that analyzes and evaluates source material.

Grading Criteria

- **Introductory Paragraph** that hooks the reader, provides relevant background information about "Schools and Businesses Should Not Promote Diversity," and states your overall critique of Mac Donald's argument in a clear and concise thesis statement.
- **Body paragraphs** that have clear and coherent topic sentences that support and develop your thesis paraphrased and quoted information from "Schools and Businesses Should Not Promote Diversity," and adequate elaboration on the information cited from the source material.
- **Concluding Paragraph** that summarizes the thesis and supporting points and answers "So what?" for the reader.
- **Proofreading & Editing** so your submission is free of common errors.
- The paper should be between **600 and 800 words**.

Due Date

This assignment is due on February 13th at 11:59 pm.

[Sample Critical Response Paper](#) ↓

Critical Response Paper 1 Rubric (1)

Criteria	Ratings			Pts
Introduction & Thesis	10 pts Excellent Not only does your introduction effectively introduce the topic of the paper, provide background information and an overview of your source material, and culminate in an arguable and unifying thesis statement that narrows the topic to the most important idea you want the reader to gain from your writing, it has a compelling hook that sets the tone for the rest of the paper. In other words, the introductory paragraph is a HIT.	8 pts Passing There is an introductory paragraph; however, your introductory paragraph is not a complete HIT. You should think more about how you are opening your paper and the background information you are providing about your source material and point of view (i.e. thesis).	6 pts Needs Revision There is no clearly identifiable introductory paragraph or thesis statement.	10 pts
Body Paragraphs	15 pts Excellent Not only does each body paragraph have a main idea that is related to your thesis and an appropriate amount of sentences that develop your ideas with paraphrases and quotations from source material and additional explanation, they also have clear topic sentences that help readers understand what they can expect from each paragraph and are organized logically and effectively.	12 pts Passing For the most part, body paragraphs are focused and make a point that supports the thesis; however, there are missed opportunities to use signal phrases to integrate specific examples from the source material and elaborate with interpretive comments that might develop the thesis further.	9 pts Needs Revision it is unclear how several of your body paragraphs are connecting to or supporting the thesis stated in your introductory paragraph. More careful planning needed to ensure that body paragraphs are developing the thesis statement.	15 pts
Conclusion	10 pts Excellent Not only does your conclusion summarize and focus on the main ideas of the paper, but closes by answering "So What?" so the reader understands the purpose for reading your paper.	8 pts Passing While there is a concluding paragraph, the concluding paragraph is a bit disconnect from the ideas that are developed in the body paragraphs; the thesis and supporting points could be restated more clearly.	6 pts Needs Revision There is no clearly identifiable concluding paragraph.	10 pts

Proofreading & Editing	10 pts Excellent Most sentences are grammatical and sentence structure is varied, most words are chosen for their precise meanings, and paper has been spell-checked and has very few errors (readability score above 85).	8 pts Passing Based on the attached Grammarly report, your document has an acceptable readability score (between 72 and 85); however, there are sentence-level errors you should review - Philip and I are here to help you understand the report.	6 pts Needs Revision Based on the attached Grammarly report, there are a significant number of sentence-level errors that are interfering with the readability of your paper (readability of 71 and below). I recommend that you spend more time proofreading and editing your paper and using tools like Grammarly to become more familiar with the common types of errors you are making; Philip and I are here to help you understand this report and find resources on campus for support with proofreading.	10 pts
Length	10 pts Meets Expectation The Paper is between 600 and 800 words.	0 pts Does Not Meet Expectation The Paper does not meet the length requirement for this assignment.		10 pts

Total Points: 55