

In Unit 2, we extend our understanding of how to read and evaluate arguments. In this unit, we learned how to recognize logical fallacies, identify unfair emotional appeals, and handle opposing views. Moreover, Greene informed us about the purpose of scholarly arguments and encouraged us to think of arguments as our individual contributions to conversations that have been happening long before we enter them; the goal of these conversations is generally to solve a problem. For the second critical response paper, you should use this framework to critically respond to a viewpoint paper from unit 2.

## Learning Outcome:

Students will compose an organized essay that is driven by an arguable thesis and that employs critical reading and writing skills.

## Grading Rubric:

1. **Introductory Paragraph** that is a HIT, which means there is an engaging hook, relevant background information on source material, and a clear and compelling thesis statement that answers the following question: **Do you consider the reasons the viewpoint paper uses to support its argument good reasons? Why or why not?**
2. **Body Paragraphs** that are focused and have clear topic sentences that present readers with a complete and distinct idea that proves or supports a thesis statement, effectively signaled and cited information from chosen viewpoint paper (e.g. paraphrases and quotations), and interpretive comments that breakdown what information means and how it supports your argument -
  - **4 or more body paragraphs are expected.**
3. **Concluding Paragraph** that summarizes the thesis and supporting points and answers "So what?" for the reader.
4. **Proofreading & Editing** so sentences are error-free and words are chosen for their precise meanings.
5. **MLA Formatting and Style**; use [MLA Checklist](#) ↓ so the overall document and in-text citations are properly formatted; you are not yet required to submit works cited page.
6. **Length** between 1000 and 1200 words.

### Critical Response Paper 2 Rubric

| Criteria                      | Ratings   |   |   | Pts    |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|--------|
| <p>Introductory Paragraph</p> | <p><b>10 pts</b><br/><b>Excellent</b></p> <p>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(s) 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.</p> | <p><b>8 pts</b><br/><b>Passing</b></p> <p>There is an introductory paragraph that introduces the viewpoint paper you will be evaluating and the thesis, or central argument, of the paper (i.e. Is the viewpoint paper's argument effective? Why or why not?). However, your introductory paragraph is not a complete HIT; you might think more about your hook and the background information you are including about the viewpoint paper that is being evaluated.</p> | <p><b>6 pts</b><br/><b>Needs Revision</b></p> <p>There is no clearly identifiable thesis statement in your introductory paragraph that establishes your argument for the overall effectiveness of the viewpoint paper you have chosen to evaluate.</p>  | 10 pts |
| <p>Body Paragraphs</p>        | <p><b>20 pts</b><br/><b>Excellent</b></p> <p>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 the source material and additional explanation, but they also have clear topic sentences that help readers understand what they can expect from each paragraph and are organized logically and effectively.</p>  | <p><b>16 pts</b><br/><b>Passing</b></p> <p>Body paragraphs are logical and organized around a single point that is supported by information from assigned source material along with interpretive comments; however, the overall focus of your paper may be lacking, so you should spend time reviewing or seeking feedback on the thesis of your paper.</p>  | <p><b>12 pts</b><br/><b>Needs Revision</b></p> <p>Your paragraphs are lacking in one of these two areas: [1] they lack focus (they are excessively long) or [2] they lack supporting information from viewpoint paper and are unsupported opinions.</p> | 20 pts |
| <p>Concluding Paragraph</p>   | <p><b>10 pts</b><br/><b>Excellent</b></p> <p>Not only does your conclusion summarize and focus on the main ideas of the paper, but it also leaves the reader with a lasting impression.</p>   | <p><b>8 pts</b><br/><b>Passing</b></p> <p>While there is a concluding paragraph, the paper's thesis and supporting points could be restated more clearly.</p>   | <p><b>6 pts</b><br/><b>Needs Revision</b></p> <p>There is no clearly identifiable concluding paragraph.</p>   | 10 pts |

|                        |   |   |  |        |
|------------------------|---|---|--|--------|
| Proofreading & Editing | <p><b>10 pts<br/>Excellent</b></p> <p>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).</p> | <p><b>8 pts<br/>Passing</b></p> <p>Based on the attached Grammarly report, your document has an acceptable readability score (between 75 and 85); however, there are sentence-level errors you should review and spend more time proofreading and editing for.</p>  | <p><b>6 pts<br/>Needs Revision</b></p> <p>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 score less than 70). 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, so you can study these errors; Philip and I are here to help.</p> | 10 pts |
| MLA Formatting & Style | <p><b>10 pts<br/>Excellent</b></p> <p>Your paper properly follows MLA formatting guidelines for the first page and in-text citations nicely; there are few formatting errors - great work!</p>  | <p><b>8 pts<br/>Passing</b></p> <p>For the most, you have made an earnest effort to properly format your first page and in-text citations; however, there are some inconsistencies throughout your paper. You should review and use the "MLA Checklist" to assist you with appropriately styling and formatting your paper.</p> | <p><b>6 pts<br/>Needs Revision</b></p> <p>There is not enough evidence that you have effectively used tools like "MLA Checklist" and "Google Docs - Setup your MLA Format Essay" video to ensure that your paper follows MLA formatting guidelines. I recommend that you study and use the MLA checklist moving forward and schedule a writing conference with our support team to help you master styling and formatting your paper.</p>  | 10 pts |
| Length Requirement     | <p><b>10 pts<br/>Complete</b></p> <p>Your paper is a minimum of 1000 words.</p>   | <p><b>6 pts<br/>Needs Revision</b></p> <p>Your paper does not meet the word length requirement of 1000 words.</p>   | 10 pts   |        |