

GUIDELINES: ANALYTIC ESSAYS¹

An essay paper is required of all students. These papers should be about five pages (12 point font, 1" margins). Conventionally, an essay states a reasoned, supported opinion. An analytic essay is an exploration of a work in term of what the author has illuminated. In such an essay you indicate your assessment of the author's achievement and then explain the reasoning behind your assessment.

For this assignment you should address something the author has accomplished. Using analysis, reason, examples, informed authority, and/or personal experience, you should explore that accomplishment and evaluate it using standards you chose. Make a case for or against the author as a thinker whose work explains the phenomenon of war or one of its components. The paper should show your reader the consideration of clarity, easy readability, and proper reference to sources you've used.

Evaluation will be on the basis of:

- (1) The energy and enthusiasm you are able to convey for the subject you address.
- (2) The effectiveness of the paper in making a convincing analysis.
- (3) The logic or reasonableness of your argument.
- (4) The clarity of your writing.

The essay is a very standard and key form for structuring ideas in a clear communicable form. It has conventions in terms of the structure that are articulated in all freshman composition courses. If you don't know the formal conventions of the essay, you need to learn at once. See me ASAP.

¹ This assignment will be due October 6.