**Q: What strategies did you use to ensure you were reading your three articles carefully and critically?**

Taking notes in the “Authors Points” section of the critical engagement assignment helped me to extract the meaning and arguments of the author. I then was able to use these points from different articles to make a wholistic argument of my own.

**Q: How did the “Synthesis” part of the Critical Engagement Assignment – where you compared what the three texts said – enable you to get a better idea about what you wanted to write about in your paper?**

I had a fairly clear idea about what I wanted to write about after I chose my sources. The synthesis section allowed me to get a higher resolution overview of important points before I began writing my paper.

**Q: More generally, how did the CEA help you prepare to write the paper?**

The best tool that the CEA offered to me was the article summaries, as they allowed me to basically start writing parts of my paper before I added any structure to it.

**Q: How did you select which passages to quote from paraphrase, or otherwise use in your paper?**

After choosing the articles I wanted based on a “big-picture” narrative, I carefully chose from the set of points to make a coherent argument. I wanted to avoid selection bias as much as possible, so I made sure to include points that I agreed with and disagreed with.

**Q: Did you find it hard to fairly and accurately summarize the authors that you strongly agreed with or disagreed with?**

When it came to summarizing the articles I agreed with, I was careful to include points in which my views differed from the author to ensure that I was actually doing thinking on my own. When it came to authors I disagreed with, it was much more difficult to find common ground, possibly making myself come off as overdefensive.