

## English 146 Strategies for Preparing a Response to an Article

In class we will review Assignment File page 4, Assignment #4

We will also review the following pages in *AWE*: “writing a Critical Analysis of an Argument” 95-97; “Writing a Summary” 97-98. I am instructing you to modify part 3 (page 97). Instead of the “Conclusion” suggested in *AWE*, write a paragraph on what the reader learns about *Heart of Darkness* from reading the article.

This essay will consist of 3 parts: 1. A brief summary of the main argument of the article; 2. A position statement, which includes your reaction to the article, and 3. A concluding section which indicates how the article added to your understanding of the text.

### 1. Summary of the argument: (~100-200 words)

- The article is not likely to be entirely about *Heart of Darkness*. If this is the case, you are responsible only for summarizing the part that relates to the novel.
- Open with a sentence that includes the author's name and the name of the article in quotation marks. Retain only the major points and a few of the details. Usually, you will have to reduce the original to about 100-200 words. Keep major points in the same order as the original. Very important: you must put the original ideas in your own style and in your own words. Failure to do so is plagiarism and will fail a summary.
- **Do not comment on the article in this part of your essay.**

### 2. Position Statement: (400-500 words)

- This section of your essay must contain quotations from the article as well as quotations from Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. Part of the success of your position depends on finding evidence in the novel to support your claims. Depending on the focus of the article itself, you will likely need to quote passages that cover key points within the novel. It is common to have 5 to 8 quotations from the novel in this part of the assignment.
- If you cannot find **at least two major points of disagreement with an article**, then you must choose one of the other two. More commonly, you agree with part of the argument but disagree on specific points. It is on these points that this part of the essay will capitalize. Be sure to offer your reasons and to support your position by seeking evidence in the novel, which you should cite (direct quotation and specific paraphrase are the two common methods of referring to the novel).
- Note: Your prior understanding of Conrad's text will be based largely on the discussion questions and class discussion of the novel in our class.

### 3 Concluding section: (100-200 words)

- This section is your debt to the critic. Show what light the article might have shed on your reading of the text
- Be sure to end the essay with a brief works Cited Section, citing the article (including the URL) as well as Conrad's novel