

Article Analysis Assignment Guide HIS 1150

Your Task

You will have to write an essay of approximately 2 double-spaced pages that analyzes Nancy Shoemaker's article, "How Indians Got to be Red." In order to properly analyze the article, you will have to be able to identify the article's basic components and formulate a thoughtful, empirically supported critique of the article's content. **Do not cite or consult any outside scholarship.** This should be your own interpretation and analysis of the article.

Process

1. Read the Article
 - a. This point is pretty self-explanatory.
2. Take Notes on the Article
 - a. I recommend printing out the article and writing directly on the page.
 - b. Underline the main argument.
 - c. Underline any important points and mark any themes you notice.
 - d. If you have a question, write that question in the margin next to the confusing part of the article.
3. Discuss the Article
 - a. We will have an entire class dedicated to discussing the article.
 - b. This will be the time to dialogue with your classmates about the article and ask questions about the article.
4. Write the Essay
 - a. See below for formatting guidelines and suggestions related to this specific assignment.
5. Proofread the Essay
 - a. DO NOT just rely on spellcheck.
 - b. Read the essay out loud to identify mistakes.
 - c. Your essay should have very few if any grammar, syntax, or spelling errors.

Essay Format

This will be a very short essay, but one that must conform to the guidelines explained below. All essays must:

- Use 12-Point Times New Roman Font.
- Be Double-Spaced.
- Have 1" margins on all sides (this is not a default setting in all word processors).

- Include proper citations for all material (quotes and paraphrases) drawn directly from the article.
 - If you are using just one source, you can just include the page number in parentheses. Example:
 - Ronald Takaki claims that “Indians came to personify the devil and everything the Puritans feared” (43).
 - If you are using multiple source you must include the relevant author’s last name. Example:
 - Ronald Takaki claims that “Indians came to personify the devil and everything the Puritans feared” (Takaki, 43).
- **Not contain *any* outside sources (you may use the article, the Takaki book, and lecture notes, but please do not incorporate any information from any other sources).**
- Contain a proper heading and title
 - Heading should be at the top left of the page and contain, your name, This course’s number (HIS 1150), and the assignment’s due date
 - Your title should be centered and in the same font and format as the rest of your essay

You should organize your essay in a logical manner and your focus should be on the contents of the Shoemaker article. I recommend following this formula:

- I. Introduction
 - a. Article’s author, title, and journal of publication
 - b. Author’s argument (in your own words, do not quote)
- II. Article Summary
 - a. 1-2 sentences explaining each of the article’s sub arguments
 - b. Explanation of sources
- III. Article Analysis
 - a. What does this work contribute to the field/your knowledge?
 - b. Was there anything the article could have done better?

In general, your summary should be longer than your analysis but both the summary and analysis must make specific references to the text. For example, when analyzing the essay, rather than saying “I learned a lot from this article,” try a more precise statement like, “I found Shoemaker’s analysis of translations for the term “red” compelling because Shoemaker convincingly argues that words matter and change meaning over time.”