WR 121

Quiz Aymelek and Scott/Open-book

1. Crystal Aymelek’s literature review “The Effects of Mindfulness Meditation and Exercise on Memory” employs a different style than many evaluations. What is the purpose of her review and how does she organize her findings?

* The author uses her research to present a chain of ideas, by topic, that builds the case that mindfulness and meditation are beneficial to our health. She then uses the later part of the paper to propose using these ideas as exercise to stay healthy.

1. “Ode to Joy (and Sadness, and Anger)” by A. O. Scott evaluates the Pixar movie *Inside Out*. What is Scott’s basic thesis and what criteria does he base his evaluation on?

* Thesis: Can the characters in movies think?
* I mean I think he’s just saying something that sounds smart (but isn’t) to intrigue the reader. It’s obvious that the characters on the screen can’t actually think. If he’s trying to make the argument that this movie does something special to make it appear as if she’s thinking is a bad one. Trying to guess what a character is thinking and using evidence from the movie to base that on is fundamental to character development generally. It seems like that’s not his thesis, and he just wants to talk about the movie in an interesting way; which implies that his thesis is just bad.

1. Noting opposing viewpoints helps establish credibility. Does either Aymelek or Scott consider counterarguments? If so, how?

* Aymelek briefly discusses some contrary opinions on past research, but otherwise I think that the answer you’re looking for is no. If I understand the question right by considering counter arguments, you probably mean Give Opposing POV -> Refute which she doesn’t. However, citing scientific studies with citations are basically takedowns of opposing ideas without it being directly stated. For example: saying “research shows x, here’s where” is logically equivalent to saying, “research shows that (the opposite of) x is false” and acts as a direct refutation of that idea. So, what I’m trying to say is, citation of sources inherently refutes counterarguments in a way that just making a claim does not. (and is generally stronger than straw man arguments made by those with an agenda)