Assignment Activity Unit 1

Department of Computer Science, UoPeople

ENGL 1102-01 - AY2025-T2

Instructor Kelechi Onyeneke

**Friday, 22th November 2024**

### Abstract:

Gil Anidjar’s essay, The Meaning of Life, delves into the complex interplay between biology as a historical science and the ahistorical frameworks through which life is often interpreted. He critiques the reduction of "life" to biological constructs, arguing that this view ignores the cultural, philosophical, and historical dimensions that shape our understanding. Anidjar explores how these contrasting perceptions influence modern thought and calls for a broader interdisciplinary approach to reconsider what "life" truly signifies. By engaging with historical and contemporary debates, the essay highlights the necessity of rethinking the paradigms that confine life to mere biological terms, emphasizing the profound implications of such limitations.

(Anidjar, 2011)

#### 1. ****What are the benefits of using sentence variety in writing?****

Sentence variety makes writing more engaging and helps maintain the reader's interest. In Anidjar's essay, varying sentence structures—such as using concise sentences to emphasize key ideas and longer, more complex sentences to explore nuanced arguments—contributes to a dynamic flow of ideas. For example, a short sentence like “Life is more than biology” stands out when paired with a longer sentence that explains this statement, enhancing its impact. This technique avoids monotony and ensures clarity in presenting complex concepts (Anidjar, 2011).

#### 2. ****How do coordination and subordination contribute to the structure and coherence of sentences and paragraphs?****

Coordination (using conjunctions like "and" or "but") helps link ideas of equal importance, while subordination (using subordinating conjunctions like "although" or "because") shows relationships between main and supporting ideas. In the abstract, phrases like "biology as a historical science and the ahistorical frameworks" use coordination to show contrasting yet equal aspects of the discussion. Subordination, as in “because this view ignores cultural dimensions,” clarifies cause-effect relationships, helping readers understand the hierarchy of ideas and maintaining coherence (Anidjar, 2011).

#### 3. ****Why is parallelism important in writing? How does it contribute to clarity and impact?****

Parallelism creates balance and rhythm, making sentences easier to read and understand. For instance, Anidjar’s call for “a broader interdisciplinary approach to reconsider what ‘life’ truly signifies” employs parallel structure to emphasize the need for balance among disciplines. This not only aids clarity but also reinforces the argument's impact by aligning the structure with the content’s depth (Anidjar, 2011).

#### 4. ****What factors contribute to the readability and flow of written communication in the article you chose?****

The essay’s readability stems from its logical organization, clear transitions, and precise language. Anidjar carefully defines key terms like "life" and "biology" before presenting his critique, ensuring readers can follow his arguments. Moreover, the use of signposting phrases like "on one hand" and "on the other hand" enhances flow by guiding readers through contrasting ideas. These techniques make complex interdisciplinary arguments accessible without oversimplifying them (Anidjar, 2011).

### Reference:

Anidjar, G. (2011). The meaning of life. Critical Inquiry, 37(4), 697–723. https://doi.org/10.1086/660995