

Progression one: Critical Response Essay

Prompt: Pick a passage from either Temple Grandin’s “Animals are not things” or Peter Singer’s “Speciesism” that contains an **interpretive problem** you wish to explore (as we will discuss in class, a problem can take the form of a **tension**, an **ambiguity**, or a **contradiction**). The passage can be as short as a single paragraph and should not be longer than a single page. Make a claim about how the writer’s choices of *language* and *form* affect the argument. Your analysis should stay close to the text, using the methods and terminology we discuss in class.

Length: The paper should be **1200-1500** words long (include a word count at the end of each draft).

Goals:

- Identify a **problem** that is worth addressing, using a passage that will reward **close reading**.
- Formulate a **claim** that makes a strong argument and is not obvious.
- Establish a **motive** for the essay in your **introduction**. Here you will answer the “So What?” question, suggesting why your essay is important and interesting to an intelligent reader. Draw out the implications of the argument in your **conclusion**.
- **Structure** the essay around your *central claim*, making sure that each paragraph is adding an essential piece to your argument.
- Use **evidence** persuasively, quoting from the text when necessary, summarizing or paraphrasing accurately and responsibly when appropriate. Do not provide evidence from other sources or make general assertions (e.g., claims about “human nature”).