**Close Reading**

**The Task**

You will analyze academic, peer-reviewed sources within their rhetorical context to aid you in engaging with these sources as you craft your own research-based argument. For this assignment, you will choose one academic, peer-reviewed source to analyze from your time spent researching in the library.

**Purpose and Format**

Since your research has helped you gauge the state of the academic conversation on your chosen topic, you should be aware of the important scholarship that addresses your research question. I also want you to understand the way more experienced writers use borrowed information (other people’s ideas) from other sources in their own writing. After finding the article you wish to analyze, you will perform a close reading of it, keeping the following questions in mind as you read (answering some of the questions will require additional research):

* Consider the author: Who is the author? What other research has the author published? Is the author credible? How do you know? Does the author have any apparent biases? How can you tell? Is the author responding to other scholars? How does he or she do this?
* Consider the purpose of the article: What is the purpose of the article? What is the article's exigence? What is the article's central argument? How does the author present this argument?
* Consider the author’s use of sources: What ways does the author use evidence or support (provide background, explain concepts, provide an example, evoke pathos)? Which passages provide the most compelling evidence? What type of evidence does the author provide (qualitative, quantitative, or a mixture of both)?

After answering these questions, you will compose a 500-word analysis that **both** justifies why your chosen article is relevant to your research question and should be included in your conference **and** explains what you’ve learned about using sources and integrating other people’s ideas into your own writing from analyzing this source. In order to fulfill these purposes, you must incorporate evidence from the questions you answered above. Because this is an analysis, you must not only provide evidence, but also analyze it (meaning explain *why* and *how*), citing key passages from the article and other relevant information.

Your analysis will be single-spaced, roughly 500 words, and written in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font. It will include a properly-formatted MLA header in the upper left-hand corner and a title. Any reference to outside information (including the article itself) must also be cited with correct MLA in-text citations and a properly-formatted works cited page. Your introduction should introduce the article, contextualize it (including when/where it was published, who the author is, etc.) and offer an argument as to why it is a valid and relevant source to engage with in your conference paper. Your body paragraphs will provide evidence from the article itself (such as evidence used, addressing of counterarguments, timeliness, etc.) and will analyze the evidence. Your conclusion will summarize your findings and reiterate your central claim.

**Grading**

Your analysis will be graded based on the quality and thoughtfulness of your writing and how well you followed the instructions. In short, your grade will be based on how well you accomplish the purpose of convincing me that your article is relevant to your research and sharing what you’ve learned about incorporating sources in research-based writing (in a good balance). Your writing should adhere to the rules of standard edited American English. Excessive errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation will result in deductions.