

SCAFFOLD EXERCISE: ARTICLE DISCUSSION TEMPLATE

This worksheet can help you learn how to apply a peer reviewed article to your own research data and analysis. Pick an article from the course you think you can use in your final paper – think about a theme from the course you want to focus on to help in your selection. You will need to use 3 articles from this course, but for this exercise use this template to discuss one article. This, worksheet will be a “low stakes” draft of a portion of your final paper. You can either type directly on this form or start a different document.

STATE WHAT YOU OBSERVED:



STATE WHAT THEME FROM THE COURSE YOU INTEND TO ADDRESS (ie. Symbol, Ritual, myth, religious practioner, etc.):



STATE YOUR POTENTIAL ARGUMENT/THESIS FOR YOUR FINAL PAPER (identity, power, inequality, resistance, social bonding, etc.):



For your final paper you will need to incorporate a discussion of at least 3 articles from the course syllabus. For each article you should have at least 1-2 paragraphs describing the topic, research question/thesis, and perhaps main concept or term. You need to use a quotation from the article that best illustrates the author’s thesis or main concept. Avoid quoting from the “literature review” (the portion of the article where the author discusses other articles). Be able to explain in your own words what the article is about, and the author’s main argument. More importantly you need to explain how the article connects to your own thesis, to your own data that you gathered. How does the article bring understanding to your research project? Fill in the following blanks to help write this section of your paper. For the final paper you will need to start each paragraph with a topic sentence, but for this exercise we are working on the content of the paragraphs. Each article discussion should be a full paragraph (at least 200 words each).

1. The first sentence of the paragraph should be a topic sentence that links the main idea you wish to discuss in the article to your thesis. Write your topic sentence here (one sentence):



2. What is the general topic or theme of the article? (Sometimes the title of the article itself can give insight into the main point of the article. Do not simply list the title, but rather look at it as a clue). (One or two sentences)



3. Select supporting quotation from article: In part you want to use the article to explain and support your own argument, and you want to focus on the author’s main thesis argument or concepts that they outline in their article.

- A. Use a quotation from the article that best illustrates the author’s thesis or main concept that they are trying to prove. (Don’t quote from the literature review).(No longer than ¼ page, about 50 words or less).



- B. Explain what the quotation means in your own words (Use at least 4 sentences).



4. Critically discuss the article and apply to your analysis: How does the article relate to one of the concepts of the course that you will address in your final paper (i.e. symbols, worldview, ritual, rite of passage, identity, religious practitioner, ghosts, syncretism, etc?) What are the limitations of the author's thesis or concept or evidence? How might you alter the author's thesis or concept to best fit the data you gathered? For instance, Turner's article is about 1) rites of passage, 2) liminality, 3) communitas. Maybe you are only interested in one of these concepts and/or you would change his definition of the concept to better fit your data. Look at the article you selected, focus on the author's thesis /concept(s) and discuss how it explains your own thesis/data. To put this simply, you want to explain how you will use the author's thesis or concept in your own way, to apply to your own thesis/data (Use at least 5 sentences)



5. Implications: Why is this information important? Once you connect the article to your data, think about your research goals/thesis and ask yourself "so what"? What is the significance of what you are trying to prove and how this article helps you prove it?

