Encouraging Reflection and Revision in First-Year English: An Online Module

Katie Alyssa Hunt and John Pierce
Department of English
From ENGL 100 Learning Outcomes

• Plan, construct, and revise analytical essays using a literary methodology that includes argumentative claims, the use of convincing supporting evidence and effective analysis of evidence.
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• Plan, construct, and revise analytical essays using a literary methodology that includes argumentative **claims**, the use of convincing supporting **evidence** and effective **analysis** of evidence
From ENGL 100 Rubric

• **Claims** (or topic sentences) connect directly to the main argument and contribute to the highly persuasive nature of the argument.

• **Evidence** is the best available to support individual claims and the main argument; it is highly persuasive and effective in support of the developing argument.

• **Analysis** explains clearly how evidence supports the claim, develops the claim fully and refers directly to the evidence used; superior analysis goes well beyond obvious and basic commentary.
Methodology of Reading: Stages in Active and Close Reading

- Pre-critical reading
- Comprehension
- Interpretation

- Impressionistic Criticism
- Analytic Criticism
Methodology of Reading: Stages in Active and Close Reading

- **Pre-critical reading**
  - What is it?

- **Comprehension**
  - What happens?

- **Interpretation**
  - What does it mean?
  - How does it mean?

• Required for tutorials
## Methodology of Writing 2: Structuring Ideas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Claim</strong></td>
<td>• What you will prove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evidence</strong></td>
<td>• How you support claim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Analysis</strong></td>
<td>• How evidence supports claim</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Collaboration between...

1.) CAR: Cognitive Assessment Redesign Project
2.) ENGL100: Introduction to English Literature

• analytical thinking = critical thinking

• **GOAL**: encourage the development of analytical/critical thinking in a first-year class of about 350 students
Structural Approach to Writing an Argument

Cognitive Approach to Developing an Argument
Argument Based on Impression

Argument Based on Analysis
Click on the impressionistic claims to reveal their ranking from most appropriate (1) to least appropriate (5).

Note:
For this exercise, we are going to focus on one aspect of the commercial (the lamp's 1st location) for the sake of brevity. You may begin with a more global impression (e.g. "The commercial is happy") or one that is more specific (e.g. "The natural imagery suggests a theme of rebirth").

The location of the lamp...

1. ...tells us that the lamp is happy to begin a journey to a better life.

2. ...next to the bag of garbage has no meaning for the commercial.

3. ...next to the bag of garbage represents what the lamp might become itself.

1:
This claim is very appropriate because it points to the meaning (representative of the lamp's possible future) that the object of study (the lamp's location) imparts. The point of study and the imparted meaning in this claim are both very specific.

4. ...is a depressing way to begin the commercial.

5. ...connects urban life with loneliness.
Let's Write!

Watch the video, and develop one impressionistic claim to work on. **Write it down in your Word doc**, because you will continue your work on it in the upcoming sections!

Don't worry if it's not perfect or very complex just yet. We're still in the brainstorming phase, so just jot down whatever comes to your mind.

Click here to move on to **Step 2: Gathering Examples**
Online Module Steps: Developing a Claim

Step 1: Impressionistic claim.
  • The beginning of the Ikea commercial is depressing.

Step 2: Gathering examples to support the Claim.
  • The setting – specifically the lamp’s proximity to garbage, the dirty streets, and the dark and rainy weather – makes the beginning of the commercial depressing.

Step 3: Selecting Evidence from the Examples.
  • The dark and rainy weather is depressing.

Step 4: Developing the Claim through Analysis.
  • The dark and rainy weather is depressing because it reflects the lamp’s inner feelings.

Step 5: Final product.
  • The dark and rainy weather reflects the lamp’s inner feelings.
The beginning of the Ikea commercial is depressing.

The dark and rainy weather reflects the lamp’s inner feelings.
Questions? Comments?