

Drafting the Thompson Paper

Evaluating Evidence

Claim/Subclaim:

Evidence:

What type of evidence is this?

Evaluating evidence (Course Reader, p. 33)

- Is the evidence relevant to the claim or sub-claim being supported?

	Y	N	?
How so?			

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| • Is the evidence relevant to the main argument? | Y | N | ? |
| • Is the evidence specific? | Y | N | ? |
| • Is sufficient detail provided? | Y | N | ? |
| • Is the source reliable? | Y | N | ? |
| • Is the evidence current, relative to the time in which the piece was written? | Y | N | ? |
| • Is the evidence accurate? | Y | N | ? |
| • Is the evidence representative? | Y | N | ? |
| • Is the evidence sufficient? | Y | N | ? |
| • Are there alternative interpretations to the evidence that are not given? | Y | N | ? |

Describe the relative strength and weakness of this piece of evidence. How well does it support the claim or subclaim?

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Analyzing Strategies

Claim/Subclaim:

Strategy:

What kind of strategy is this?

How does this strategy work to support the claim/subclaim?

What kind of effect does this strategy have on Thompson's readers?

How does this strategy work in service of Thompson's main argument?

How persuasive is Thompson's deployment of this strategy?

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How does this strategy work to support the claim/subclaim?

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How persuasive is Thompson's deployment of this strategy?

Skeleton Outline

For the body of this essay, you have a lot of freedom. You must work with at least one claim, one piece of evidence, and one strategy. Beyond that, you can focus on whatever you want. Some possibilities:

- You could go in-depth on how Thompson supports a single claim, analyzing each type of evidence and several strategies he uses to support it (ex. write about how Thompson supports his subclaim that writing "clarifies our thinking" with expert testimony, anecdote, and authoritative quotes).
- You could focus on a single type of evidence and a single type of strategy and how they support various claims (ex. how Thompson uses transitional questions and research studies to support various claims and subclaims).
- You could select 2-3 of Thompson's most interesting and/or important claims, and

discuss at least the piece of evidence and/or strategy he uses to support each.

Introduction

1. Conversation starter—establish the general topic and its significance (probably 2-4 sentences)
2. Introduce author and text, linking them to the above topic
3. Thesis—use metadiscourse (“In this paper, I will analyze and evaluate . . .”)

Body Paragraph 1: Thompson’s Argument

- 1) Explain Thomson’s overall project and argument

Body Paragraphs 2 and Beyond: Claims, Evidence, and Strategies

Each paragraph should contain:

- 1) Topic sentence (this should probably demonstrate the relationship between the claim/subclaim and the piece of evidence or strategy)
- 2) Well-selected quotation with parenthetical citation
- 3) Analysis of how the evidence or strategy works on the audience
- 4) Evaluation of how effective the evidence or strategy is in supporting the claim and/or Thompson’s main argument

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Conclusion

- 1) Revisit—summarize points of analysis
- 2) Final evaluation of argumentative effectiveness
- 3) Significance—why do we care?