

# Essay 1: Analyzing an Argument

**Points Breakdown:** Outline=40; Peer Review=40; Writing Meditation=40; Final Draft=140.

**Outline Due:** Friday, 9/16 (refer to “Guide to Formal Outlining” on BB for instructions).

**First Rough Draft Due:** Monday, 9/19 (must reach at least 3 pages).

**Second Rough Draft Due:** Wednesday, 9/21 (must be revised and reach at least 3 pages).

**Final Draft Due:** Monday, 9/26 (submit entire writing process portfolio).

## Description:

Describe and analyze an author’s project, argument, claims, supporting evidence, and rhetorical strategies.

## Prompt:

In your analysis of Clive Thompson’s “Public Thinking,” you are expected to:

- Introduce the author and his text.
- Discuss the author’s purpose, intended audience, and overall argument.
- Explain *your* project for the paper, using metadiscourse.
- Identify the author’s main claims and what you see as his important sub-claims, explaining how they relate to his overall argument.
- Analyze and evaluate the author’s chosen methods of persuasion, thoroughly discussing his use of supporting evidence and rhetorical appeals (ethos, pathos, and logos).
- Consider the organizational strategy the author uses to structure his argument, and determine its effectiveness.
- Explore the significance of your analysis.
- Use an effective structure that carefully guides your reader from one idea to the next, thoroughly editing your writing so it is comprehensible and appropriate for an academic audience.

## Expectations:

- 5-6 pages (at least 5 *full* pages)
- Printed and stapled
- Double-spaced
- Standard (1-inch) margins
- 12 point, Times New Roman font
- MLA Works Cited page
- Use specific quotes and lines of evidence. When doing so, be sure to give credit where credit is due, following MLA in-text citation formatting. *Example: In her article, Pincock asserts, “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” (5).*

## Writing Help:

If you have any questions, you are welcome to send me an email or stop by my office during my designated hours. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to attend an optional 15-minute conference with me to go over your rough draft (I will pass around a sign-up sheet). Furthermore, you may make appointments at the SDSU Writing Center for additional assistance, and Purdue OWL is an excellent reference for MLA formatting and academic writing.