

<b>Assignment # 1:</b>	Analyzing An Argument
<b>Short Rough Draft Due Date:</b>	September 21
<b>Long Rough Draft Due Date:</b>	September 24
<b>Final Draft Due Date:</b>	October 1 on Blackboard by 11:59 PM
<b>Length:</b>	5-6 <u>FULL</u> pages (not including Works Cited Page)

For your first major essay, you will analyze the argument, major claims, evidence, and assumptions in Jeffrey J. Selingo's "Will You Sprint, Stroll or Stumble Into a Career?" Published in *The New York Times* in 2016, this article explores the various ways in which young people journey through early adulthood today. Overall, Selingo argues there are three main "types" of young people—sprinters, wanderers, and stragglers—and not only defines each group but also provides personal stories of actual people from each category. In all, this article shows you what life may be like after college and how different people find their ways in the world.

Your paper should identify and explain Selingo's argument, project, and major claims. You must also evaluate the evidence which Selingo marshals in the article, focusing on the credibility and effectiveness of the evidence. Overall, your main task is to analyze the evidence in the article. Even so, as I have put in the comprehensive outline below, in the introduction and conclusion I would also like you to reflect on your own life, categorize yourself as a sprinter, wanderer, or straggler, and deeply meditate on the significance of Selingo's argument to you as a college student venturing into adulthood.

Specifically, your paper should do the following:

1. Identify and explain Selingo's argument and project.
2. Explain Selingo's major claims, focusing on the most important assertions.
3. Analyze and evaluate the extent to which evidence and reasoning support the argument.
4. Assess and explain an assumption that Selingo makes in his argument.
5. Begin your essay with a hook which reflects on your own life.

**Requirements:**

This paper requires the following:

- A correctly formatted Works Cited page.
- Specific quotes and lines of evidence from the text.
- A traditional academic structure and PIE.
- 12pt font, 1inch margins, and MLA formatting (see Purdue OWL if you need assistance)

**Student Learning Outcome:**

Identify an author's argument, claim, project, assumptions, and evidence. Analyze and evaluate the extent to which evidence and reasoning support the argument.

## A Helpful Outline

### Introduction (2-3 paragraphs):

- An interesting hook about early adulthood or some other topic relevant to the article. Some examples: do you think you will sprint, stroll, or stumble through early adulthood? Why do you think this? Do you know anyone who sprinted, strolled, or stumbled, and is there anything you can learn from that? These are simply examples to get you started; you need not answer all of these questions, and your hook should focus on a single story.
- A concisely written rhetorical situation of the Selingo article. Include author name, article name, the audience, the genre, and the publication.
- A clear thesis statement which directly relates to the prompt and states what you intend to accomplish in the essay. (“In this paper I will perform a rhetorical analysis of Selingo’s article in order to show that he has crafted a well-supported argument.”)

### Body Paragraphs (Many paragraphs, and in this order):

- State Selingo’s main argument and his project. Analyze and explain them. This will be one full paragraph after the introduction paragraphs.
- Identify and explain the major claims espoused by Selingo. This should be at least two major claims.
  - For this, make sure you explain them and not simply identify them. Quote them and explain them in your own words. Follow the PIE structure.
- Analyze the evidence in the article, focusing on not just identifying the evidence but on analyzing it in terms of its credibility and effectiveness.
  - Try to focus on the bigger pieces of evidence that you can write more about.
  - Make sure to analyze the evidence in terms of its sufficiency, relevance, and representativeness.
  - This will be multiple paragraphs depending on how much you write about claims, the introduction, and the conclusion. You will write about multiple types of evidence.
- Assumptions – this should be one or two paragraphs. Discuss assumptions that Selingo makes in the article. If possible, quote from the text, and be sure to explain in your own words why it is an assumption that the author makes.

### Conclusion (1-2 paragraphs):

- Spend one or two sentences max wrapping up your essay. Do not resay everything you just said – I just read it! 😊
- Focus on the significance of Selingo’s argument. Is it an important argument? Is it significant to know that there is not one concrete “correct” way we go through life? Would this article have helped you had you read it in high school? How do you see your own life trajectory in relation to sprinting, strolling, or stumbling?
- Try to end strongly with a mic drop.