

Anthropology 1100-005  
Winter 2008  
Analytical Article Review Assignments  
Review #1 Due: January 28; Review #2: April 2

### **Introduction**

This course requires that you read five short articles. Many of them are classics of anthropology and all of them relate directly to the subject of the lectures and films. These readings are meant to complement your textbook which is void of such extended examples of cultural activities and behaviors.

For these assignments, you are required to summarize 2 articles of your choice (one from each half of the term). Specific details of what to include in the reviews are given below.

### **Administrative Details**

Review #1 is due in class on January 28. For Review #1, you must review one of:

- Shakespeare in the Bush
- Too Many Bananas

Read both of these articles. Do not review both of them.

Review #2 is due in class on April 2. For Review #2, you must review one of:

- Consulting the Poison Oracle Among the Azande
- Body Ritual Among the Nacirema
- 'Time' (from *Other Side of Eden*) by Hugh Brody

Read all three of these articles. Do not review more than one of these articles.

Each review is worth 5% of your total grade.

### **Specific Requirements**

Reviews are limited to 500 words or about two pages double spaced. Do not exceed this limit. It is conceivable that your review will be shorter than this. Your review must be written in sentences and paragraphs. Please indent your paragraphs. Do not write a one page paragraph; they are very difficult to read. It is not necessary to use a cover page but please put your name on the top of your paper. Get someone to proof-read your paper.

For each of your reviews:

1. Read the article.
2. Note or highlight interesting features of the text in the margins. These features might relate to: the 'content' of the article, or what is being described by the author; the position and role of the anthropologist; the way in which the article is written; questions that the article raises for you. Your observations may be about other things too.
3. On a piece of scratch paper, write out the main points and arguments made in the article. What is the article about, and what are the major conclusions? Write out in skeleton form how each argument is developed and how a larger conclusion is reached.
4. Now that you have identified the main points, write an outline of your short summary. Tip: in making the outline, be analytical, not chronological. That is, do not reproduce each point as it is written chronologically in the article. This always obscures the larger argument. Instead, think of how the main points are related and try to integrate them into your paragraphs.
5. Write a 500 word review of the article. Your review should include:
  - a. A statement of what the article is about (ie. the analytical summary).
  - b. A note about how the article relates to the class or to anthropology in general.
  - c. A question that the article raises for you and a potential answer to the question. (Note: do not use the questions I have given you as your questions!) The question should be generated by the article and answered with reference to the article.
6. I could imagine your summary will have three paragraphs, each one dealing with the above points. Expect to write more than one draft as you prepare this work.

### **Tips**

The three 'Cs':

**Comprehensiveness:** the summary should summarize all of the main points of the article. Points will be taken off if there are important points that are missing. Pay attention to the details, but make sure they are used in support of the main points and they do not cause the reader to lose focus on the main themes of the article.

**Clarity:** try to cover the main points in the limited space, without vague or imprecise language. Use straightforward and direct language, like you were explaining each point to a classmate.

**Cogent organization and writing:** organize your summary points and use good essay structure. Use topic sentences for each paragraph and make sure order of each paragraph makes sense.

(Kudos to Dr. John Alderete, SFU Linguistics.)