

Anthropology 1100-002 (F Class)
Fall 2008
Chapter Review Assignments
Review #1 Due: September 26; Review #2: November 21

Introduction

This course requires that you read an ethnography called “Ancestral Lines” by John Barker. Each chapter relates directly to the themes and lectures of the course. As such, this ethnography is meant to complement your textbook which has a limited number of extended examples of cultural activities and behaviors.

For these two assignments, you are required to summarize 2 chapters 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 September 26. For Review #1, you must review one of chapter 1, 2, or 3.

Read all chapters. Do not review all of them.

Review #2 is due in class on November 21. For Review #2, you must review one of chapter 4, 5, or 6.

Read all chapters. Do not review all of them.

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 chapter.
2. Note or highlight interesting features of the text in the margins. These features might relate to: the 'content' of the chapter, or what is being described by Barker; the position and role of the anthropologist; the way in which the chapter is written; questions that the chapter 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 chapter. What is the chapter 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 chapter. 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 chapter. Your review should include:
 - a. A statement of what the chapter is about (ie. the summary).
 - b. A note about how the chapter relates to the class or to anthropology in general.
 - c. A question that the chapter 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 chapter and answered with reference to the chapter.
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 chapter. 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 chapter.

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.)