

Notes to Guide Reading

Week 4, Section 1: Grammar Review, Avoiding Plagiarism, and Global Resource Redistribution

Handout on Rules of Grammar

- Familiarize yourself with the ten rules I discuss.
 - Be able to successfully apply these rules in your term paper project.
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Handout on Proper Rules of Citation

- Know the difference between quotes, paraphrases, and summaries.
 - Familiarize yourself with the rules of proper citation to make sure you give appropriate credit to the authors you incorporate in your writing.
 - Be able to successfully apply these rules in your term paper project.
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Singer, “Famine, Affluence, and Morality” (1972)

- Be prepared to explain *in detail* Singer’s shallow pond example.
 - For instance, what is the major takeaway of the thought experiment?
 - Also, be able to explain what type of rhetorical appeal this is and whether (and why!) you think that Singer’s appeal is successful.
 - Considering that Singer’s central claim is that wealthier countries have an obligation to substantively assist those in need, be prepared to answer the following:
 - What are three reasons or pieces of evidence Singer uses to support the truth of his central claim?
 - What might the warrant for his argument be? This is to say that you should be able to articulate what you think the bedrock justification is for his argument in this section—and this will require you to identify some fundamental value or idea that Singer could rest his argument on.
 - Also, consider how Hardin—who argues the opposite conclusion than Singer—would might object to Singer’s argument. Your answer will have to be specific.
 - Lastly, in thinking about our working list of principles of good writing, be able to explain two characteristics of good or bad writing that you see in Singer’s article.
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Hardin, “Lifeboat Ethics: The Case Against Helping the Poor” (1974)

- Be prepared to explain *in detail* Hardin’s lifeboat example.
 - For instance, what does Hardin mean by “Complete justice, complete catastrophe.”
 - Also, be able to explain what type of rhetorical appeal this is and whether (and why!) you think that Hardin’s appeal is successful.
- Considering that Hardin’s central claim is that wealthy countries should not redistribute resources to the poor, be prepared to answer the following:
 - What are three reasons or pieces of evidence Hardin uses to support the truth of his central claim?

- What might the warrant for his argument be? This is to say that you should be able to articulate what you think the bedrock justification is for his argument in this section—and this will require you to identify some fundamental value or idea that Hardin could rest his argument on.
 - Also, consider how Singer—who argues the opposite conclusion than Hardin—would might object to Hardin’s argument. Your answer will have to be specific.
 - Lastly, in thinking about our working list of principles of good writing, be able to explain two characteristics of good or bad writing that you see in Hardin’s article.
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Reminder On Engaging Counterarguments (Objections) to Your Arguments

- The strength of your argument depends on demonstrating that alternative/opposing positions to your argument are wrong.
- For the term paper, you are required to engage two possible objections to your argument.
 - The counterarguments you explore could be objections to your conclusion (thesis), to any one of your reasons, to the evidence you may use (e.g., how you’re interpreting statistics or the case studies you use), or they may highlight some problematic implications of your argument.
 - These objections, however, cannot be “straw-man” objections (see list of logical fallacies in *Knowing Words* reading from week 1): you need to think of *strong* objections to your argument.
- And you must do more than to merely explain the objection: you need to explain in detail why the counterargument is strong/plausible—to explain, that is, why a reasonable person would accept the objection as true.
- Once you explain its plausibility, you must demonstrate its weaknesses: you must explain, that is, why your claim more compelling.