UPDATED: HOW TO REVIEW AN ARTICLE/BOOK

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**State** **Author, Title of article, Journal / Book Title, Date of Publication.**

1. ***Demonstrate you understand the Author’s Thesis***
2. **Thesis Statement.**  Why was this article/book written? Purpose?

**State Thesis in One or Two sentences only!** Be concise – then elaborate:

* 1. What are the supporting points/ evidence used to support the thesis?
1. How is the article/book structured? Thematic or Chronological subheadings?
2. Identify (if any) **rhetorical strategies** the author uses to persuade the reader – concern for fairness / justice? Appeal to logic, reasoning? A plea to emotions?
3. Identify any obvious **methodological approach** use by the author (hint: what is their background, education, training, career)

Aesthetic/Formal? Cultural/Sociological? Psychological? Historical/biographical? Political (ex. Feminist? Marxist) Iconographic? Groundbreaking? Theoretical? Other?

1. Is there an obvious **tone** to the article? Persuasive? Emotional? Scholarly? Logical? Educational? Detached? Personal? Humorous?
2. Who is the intended **audience**? Students? Colleagues? Artists? Public?

***II Was the article successful?***

1. Once you establish that you understand the author’s thesis (Part I), you can address how **successful** you believe the author was in proving **or persuading** you (the reader) regarding his or her **thesis**.
2. Do you agree or disagree **in whole or in part** with the author’s thesis? Ground your response in sound reasoning, evidence or experience.
3. Were there any particularly exciting and memorable observations that you found important or persuasive?
4. ***KEEP IN MIND***
5. The articles are often **difficult to read. This is not necessarily a fault**.
6. You are **not grading** the article on whether it is well written or not – rather, you should focus on the **merit of the ideas** presented.
7. **Paraphrase** as often as you can. Avoid long quotes.
8. Cite all sources properly, even when paraphrasing.
9. If **presenting** review in class – **do not** read from a highlighted Xerox of the article! Have note cards or written statement.