

**Journal Article Reviews**  
**ANTH 336 WAR AND SOCIETY**  
**Fall 2008**

As the next step in your research projects, you will be writing reviews of two of the peer-reviewed journal articles that you found and included on your preliminary bibliography. At least one of these articles must be written by an anthropologist or published in an anthropology journal.

A review is a critical evaluation of a text, event or object. The most important element of a review is that it is a commentary, not merely a summary. You should **clearly** state your opinion [*Point of View*] of the work: you can agree or disagree and identify where you find the work to be exemplary or deficient [*Sufficiency*]. As with any piece of academic writing, you should provide evidence [*Information*] for your opinion.

For the purposes of this assignment, your journal article review should focus on understanding the **logic** of the article and deconstructing the author's thinking process so that you understand how the author put his/her argument together. **At a minimum**, your review should answer the following **questions**:

1. What is the main **purpose** of this article? (State as **accurately** as possible the author's **purpose** for writing the article or for doing the research.)
2. What is (are) the important **question(s)** the author of this article is trying to address? (Figure out the key **question(s)** in the mind of the author when s/he wrote the article.)
3. 3a. What or who were the subjects/informants/interviewees? What kind of study was done? (Case study, survey, ethnography, documentary research, etc.) [*Information*]  
3b. How many subjects or interviews were there? If the author does not state tell us, then state that the author does not tell us. [*Information*]  
3c. If the method was ethnography, how long was the fieldwork, where was the fieldwork done, how did the ethnographer do his or her ethnography? If the author does not state tell us, then state that the author does not tell us. [*Information*]
4. What facts, data, evidence or experiences [*Information*] does the author use to answer the important **question** of the article?
5. What are the main **assumptions** underlying the author's thinking? (Figure out what the author is taking for granted.)
6. What are the main **inferences** or **conclusions** in this article? (Identify the key **conclusions** the author comes to and presents in the article.)
7. Do the author's **conclusions** follow from the data or evidence presented [*Logical*]? Why or why not?
8. 8a. What are the **implications** if we take the author's line of reasoning seriously? (What consequences are likely to follow if people take the author's line of reasoning seriously?)  
8b. What are the **implications** if we fail to take the author's line of reasoning seriously? (What consequences are likely to follow if people ignore the author's reasoning?)

**Text in Red**

Indicates the infusion of the  
**Elements of Reasoning**

**Text in Blue**

Indicates the infusion of the  
**Intellectual Standards**

**Text in Green**

Indicates the infusion of the  
**Intellectual Traits**

*[Bracketed Text]*

Indicates the indirect use of  
critical thinking [*Elements*],  
[*Standards*], or [*Traits*]

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