“My mind,” he said, “rebels at stagnation. Give me problems, give me work, give me the most abstruse cryptogram, or the most intricate analysis, and I am in my own proper atmosphere . . . But I abhor the dull routine of existence. I crave for mental exaltation.”

—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

**Overview**

The first final project for this course is the creation of a writing plan. Writing is a craft that people spend a lifetime refining, and one that allows people to express themselves in various ways. Effective writing has the ability to shape and inform the opinions of its readers. The ability to articulate a message through writing is essential in any career. Something key to remember is that the writing process is never truly complete.

In this assignment, you will select one of the provided readings and analyze it. Next, you will develop a claim about the information presented in that reading. In the next assignment, you will support that claim through a critical analysis essay. There is no right or wrong claim. It is how you support your claim that makes your essay effective.

The project has one milestone, which will scaffold learning and ensure quality final submissions. This milestone will be submitted in Module 1. The final submission is due in Module 3.

**In this assignment, you will demonstrate your mastery of the following course outcomes:**

- Discuss stylistically appropriate writing strategies for various audiences, subjects, and purposes
- Identify main ideas, supporting evidence, and conclusions through critical analysis for utilizing these components in one’s own writing
- Interpret the writing process as a means for generating ideas, drafting, and revising for improving the quality and effectiveness of one’s own writing
- Integrate appropriate and qualified evidence into one’s own composition through effective research

**Prompt**

For this writing plan, you will analyze a reading and develop a claim about the intent of that reading. Once your claim is established, you will use examples from the reading to support your claim throughout your writing plan.
Critical Elements

Specifically, the following critical elements must be addressed:

I. **Writing Plan**: Use this writing plan as a way to gather your thoughts and determine your strategy for writing your critical analysis essay. This process will allow you to develop a potential structure for effectively communicating and supporting your claim. This plan will be helpful in keeping your thought process on track when you begin writing and revising your essay.

   A. Determine the **author’s claim** to be addressed in your analysis essay. Your determination of the author’s goal must be derived from one of the provided articles.
   
   B. Determine **author’s key points** and rationale that will be helpful in supporting the validity of your claim.
   
   C. Identify the **audience** that will be reading your essay. What potential challenges will you have supporting your claim with this demographic?
   
   D. Establish your **goal** that you hope to accomplish with your essay. For example, you may disagree with the author and demonstrate why he or she is incorrect, or you may agree but want to further substantiate his or her claim.
   
   E. Based on your claim, determine potential places where **evidence** would be most effective. Defend your choices. For example, if you disagree with an author’s point you would want to use evidence to support your view.
   
   F. Identify a **revision strategy** that would be most effective in informing you while writing this essay. Why would this strategy be effective?
   
   G. How will this essay benefit from receiving **feedback** from an outside party? How can that feedback be integrated?

Assignment 1, Milestone 1: Writing Notes

In **Module 1**, you will conduct a quick, literal, surface-level reflection on your selected reading through guided prompts. You will engage with some of the critical elements outlined in Section I: Writing Plan above, which will help inform your final submission. As you read through the material, you will take notes to help capture your reactions to the reading—how it makes you feel, what it makes you think, and why you might feel or think about it in that way. Since you will use these notes as a launching point to approach the reading in a deeper, more engaging manner in a later module, it is important to be detailed in your notes. Highlight specific lines, passages, or words that stick out to you, and explain how they have an impact on your interpretation of the piece. After completing your initial read and taking notes, you will articulate your initial “gut reactions” by answering specific questions. **This milestone is graded with the Assignment 1, Milestone 1 Rubric.**

Assignment 1 Submission: Writing Plan

In **Module 3**, you will submit your writing plan in its final form. It should be a complete, polished artifact containing all of the **critical elements** associated with Assignment 1. **This assignment will be graded using the Assignment 1 Rubric.**
Assignment 1 Rubric

Guidelines for Submission: Your writing plan must be 1–2 pages in length. Use double spacing, 12-point Times New Roman font, and one-inch margins. This assignment will be completed through the interactive activity provided in your MindEdge eLearning materials.

Instructor Feedback: Students submit this activity in Moodle and can view instructor feedback in the Gradebook.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Critical Elements</th>
<th>Exemplary</th>
<th>Proficient</th>
<th>Needs Improvement</th>
<th>Not Evident</th>
<th>Value %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing Plan: Author’s Claim</td>
<td>Determines a claim to be addressed in the analysis essay, and claim is derived from one of the provided articles (100%)</td>
<td>Determines a claim to be addressed in the analysis essay, but claim is not derived from one of the provided articles (55%)</td>
<td>Does not determine a claim to be addressed in the analysis essay (0%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>10.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Plan: Author’s Key Points</td>
<td>Determines key points and rationale that will be helpful in supporting the validity of the claim (100%)</td>
<td>Determines key points and rationale, but key points or rationale are cursory or inaccurate (55%)</td>
<td>Does not determine key points and rationale that will be helpful in supporting the validity of the claim (0%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>10.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Plan: Audience</td>
<td>Identifies audience and determines potential challenges (100%)</td>
<td>Identifies audience but does not determine potential challenges (55%)</td>
<td>Does not identify audience (0%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>10.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Plan: Goal</td>
<td>Establishes a goal to be accomplished with the essay (100%)</td>
<td>Establishes a goal for the essay, but goal is not aligned with the essay claim (55%)</td>
<td>Does not establish a goal (0%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>10.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Plan: Evidence</td>
<td>Determines potential places where evidence would be most effective and defends choices (100%)</td>
<td>Determines places where evidence would be most effective but does not defend choices or defense is illogical (55%)</td>
<td>Does not determine places where evidence would be most effective (0%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Plan: Revision Strategy</td>
<td>Identifies a revision strategy that would be effective and describes why it would be effective (100%)</td>
<td>Identifies a revision strategy, but does not describe why the strategy would be effective or strategy is illogical (55%)</td>
<td>Does not identify a revision strategy (0%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>10.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Plan: Feedback</td>
<td>Describes how essay can benefit from receiving feedback and how that feedback can be integrated (100%)</td>
<td>Describes how essay can benefit from receiving feedback, but does not describe how the feedback can be integrated or description is cursory or contains inaccuracies (55%)</td>
<td>Does not describe how essay can benefit from feedback (0%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>10.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articulation of Response</td>
<td>Submission is free of errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, and organization and is presented in a professional and easy-to-read format (100%)</td>
<td>Submission has no major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization (85%)</td>
<td>Submission has major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that negatively impact readability and articulation of main ideas (55%)</td>
<td>Submission has critical errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that prevent understanding of ideas (0%)</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>