

Paper #1 – Critical Analysis of a Reading

- 1-paragraph writing exercise Due Tuesday, September 8, in class
- 1 to 2.5 page “draft-in-progress” due Thursday September 10 in class for brief peer review
- 1.5 to 3 page draft due on Moodle Saturday September 12 by 11:59PM
- 3 to 4 page revision due Saturday, September 26, 11:59PM, on Moodle

Only the revision will be graded

FOR SEP 8: Choose **one** reading – Lawrence, Beecher, or Conwell – and write one paragraph about an aspect or idea in it that interests you, confuses you, inspires you, irritates you, or annoys you. You will **not** have to turn this in or show it to anyone.

MAIN ASSIGNMENT FOR SEP 10, 12, and 26: Write an essay about **one** of these three readings, which **explains and critically analyzes** one or more of the author’s important concepts, arguments, or rhetorical techniques. To explain and critically analyze a theme or idea in a reading, you need to:

- Briefly **explain** the reading’s overall point or approach – who is/was the author? what kind of text is this? What is its subject and purpose? And so on.
- **Identify** the specific idea or aspect you are focusing on, and **explain why** that idea or aspect is worth exploring, and **how** the author supports their ideas or makes their argument.
- **State** your main idea or position in a thesis statement, and then **develop and support** that idea and position with evidence from the text.

Goals:

- Accurately and **selectively** summarize a text
- **Quote** from a text
- Pick out portions of a text that are **relevant** to what you want to discuss
- Distinguish **your** voice from the voice of the text’s author

Notes:

- **Reader:** Your reader is a hypothetical person: an educated adult, but someone who has **no detailed knowledge of this text or topic**. When I read your paper, I will be imagining myself as that reader. You will be **teaching** me.
- **Length:** Page minimum is required; you may go longer than the maximum if you want, but try not to go more than a page or so beyond that.