

**Guidelines for the First Paper:
The Myth of Matriarchy (J. Bamberger).
Summary, Response, and Application to a Case Study**

- Length: four to five pages (Times New Roman, 12 pt, double-spaced) excluding bibliography and, if appropriate, figures
- Use a citation style that allows you to include page references in your citations.
- Submission of complete rough draft: Wednesday, September 16 at 9 p.m. (Moodle)
- Discussion of draft paper: Friday, September 18 (book appointment through Calendly at <https://calendly.com/alindenlauf/esem-first-meeting-paper-1>)
- Paper submission deadline: Thursday, September 23 at 9 p.m. (Moodle)

Your paper should include the following three components:

(1) Summary of J. Bamberger's contribution.

We shall read and discuss this essay in class. This means you will write about a familiar reading.

A summary of a text is different from a list of points and issues addressed in it. Before you start writing your summary, you need to reread the essay and consider it in its entirety. Knowing and understanding the text in this way will allow you to write a concise summary of its content.

Try to include the following aspects:

Thesis. What point does the author want to make? What does the author mean by the "myth of matriarchy"? What alternative account does the author propose?

Evidence. How does the author demonstrate or prove her point? What are the main myths the author relies upon? Why does the author consider them important?

Implications and Significance. Why is this issue important to the author? How might it affect our understanding of human history and society?

Feel free to use short quotes from Bamberger's text. If you quote passages from Bamberger's paper, please remember to include page references in your citation.

(2) Evaluation of J. Bamberger's contribution.

Use the following questions to guide you through the composition of this section of your essay: What are the strengths of the essay? Is the argument clear and consistent? Does it consider possible counterarguments and counterexamples?

More subjectively, were you persuaded by the essay? Why or why not?

All these questions are meant to guide your process of thinking and writing about Bamberger's text. They are not intended as a checklist you should follow.

(3) Application of Bamberger's thesis to a case study. This could be a critical review of an example that the author mentions or a myth or a work of an ancient author (e.g., myth of the Amazons).

This section can be short (one paragraph).

Use the following questions to guide you through the composition of this section of your essay: Does Bamberger's publication help you better understand the story or the portrayal of women that you choose to discuss under (3)? If you choose the Amazons, consider whether Bamberger's approach sheds new light on the myths, or on how the stories were used by ancient Greeks? Does your case-study confirm or disprove the author's thesis? Do any features of the story chosen under (3) provide evidence for early matriarchy? Do any provide evidence for patriarchy? If you think that the application does not work well, explain why you think so.

All these questions are meant to guide your process of thinking and writing about Bamberger's text. They are not intended as a checklist you should follow.

Remember that this is an essay. Essays normally consist of an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. Your paper should have a title. Be sure to use citations!