ATS3095 German Proficient 1
Approaching the Literature Review
Research and learning skills development workshop

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Your assignment

Details of the task

Due date: 2 May 2018

Details of task: Literature Review - Analyse one article of research literature relevant to one of the texts read in class.

Word limit: 150 words in English

Value: 25% of culture component

Marking criteria: Correctness and understanding of seminar topics (50%), coherence of arguments and sophistication of literary interpretation (50%)
Your assignment
What is a literature review in this context?

How do I structure it?
It’s actually more like a critical review, or one entry of an annotated bibliography

There are two parts:
- the bibliographical reference, and
- a brief explanatory paragraph

In this article, Hooti and Mahmoudi argue that war in the modern world is chiefly the result of ‘disoriented identity’. The authors posit that an internal conflict rages within all people, and this leads them to perform violent acts and to condone war. They draw on Pirandello’s characters to illuminate these conflicting responses people have to war, arguing it is this internal struggle that leads to violence. When discussing how declining loyalty to the state impacts upon identity, and subsequently human propensity toward violence, the authors focused largely on individual identity. This could have been extended to consider the bigger theme of patriotism in Pirandello’s *War*. 
In this article, Hooti and Mahmoudi argue that war in the modern world is chiefly the result of ‘disoriented identity’. The authors posit that an internal conflict rages within all people, and this leads them to perform violent acts and to condone war. They draw on Pirandello’s characters to illuminate these conflicting responses people have to war, arguing it is this internal struggle that leads to violence. When discussing how declining loyalty to the state impacts upon identity, and subsequently human propensity toward violence, the authors focused largely on individual identity. This could have been extended to consider the bigger theme of patriotism in Pirandello’s War.
Your assignment

The review is a brief explanatory paragraph that includes:

1) **Description or summary** of the author’s main argument or main ideas

   What is the author arguing? What evidence are they using? What theoretical approaches are used? How have they gone about their research? [Argument, Method, Theory, Evidence]

2) **Evaluation/ critique** of the arguments/ claims/ ideas

   What are strengths and limitations of the arguments? What are the strengths and limitations of the research/methods? Do you agree with the theoretical approaches?

   What do you agree/ disagree with? Why?
Your turn!
Activity
It’s your job to mark the two examples

Criteria for marking:

- correctness and understanding of seminar topics
- coherence of arguments
- sophistication of literary interpretation

As a starting point, see if you can identify:

- the reference (MLA 8th style)
- description/ summary of the argument
- analysis/ evaluation of the argument

Now, evaluate the quality of each of these components
Your turn!
Research

http://guides.lib.monash.edu/german-studies/ATS3095

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Reading with purpose

What do you do when you approach an article or book?
Reading with purpose

This is what should be in an **introduction** (notice that this is the same for your review or essay!):

- General understanding of the field
- What other people have said about it
- The issue or problem in current approaches (the gap they are filling)
- The question the author is going to answer

This is what should be in a conclusion:

- Restate the main problem
- Restate the question and approach
- Give answers as well as ramifications for understanding current field/text that is being interpreted
Note taking on sources (make your notes meaningful!)

Read and take notes at the same time – most efficient!

- Don’t just highlight
- Underline major topic sentences
- Write the most important points in the margins
- Paraphrase in your own words
- Start to engage with the ideas – what do you think?
Active reading template

A tool to help you undertake a close reading of a text.

It is essentially to help you do this:

1) Description or summary of the author’s main argument or main ideas

   What is the author arguing? What evidence are they using? What theoretical approaches are used? How have they gone about their research? [Argument, Method, Theory, Evidence]

2) Evaluation/ critique of the arguments/ claims/ ideas

   What are strengths and limitations of the arguments? What are the strengths and limitations of the research/methods? Do you agree with the theoretical approaches?

   What do you agree/ disagree with? Why?
Your turn!
Activity

- Read the article you located earlier, and fill out the active reading template.
- When finished, discuss your responses with a partner.
Conclusion

- What have you learned?
  - Share with the person sitting next to you.

- Any questions?
Need more help?

Come to the Research and Learning Point at the Matheson Library:

Mon-Thurs 12pm-6pm
Friday 12pm – 4pm

There’s a Moodle lesson on this too!
You’ll find it on your unit’s Moodle page under Week 7.