

ANALYZE JOURNAL ARTICLES

Assignment: In this assignment, students are asked to analyze ideas presented in two or more articles on specific topic. They should be required to submit a bibliography and to cite the articles appropriately in their analyses.

Preparation: For this assignment, you will need to find two or more articles that you would like your students to read critically. Make sure that the library has access to these articles by talking to a librarian or by searching for them yourself. If the library does not have a copy readily available, then students will need to order the article through Interlibrary loan, which may affect your due date. You don't need to provide students with copies of the articles or place them on reserve because the students will have to find and read those articles on their own. You simply need to provide bibliographic information on each article, which will help students learn how to read bibliographies.

What to expect in the library session: The librarian will show students how to use a bibliography to search for articles. For instance, students will learn how to use the journal resource locator and how to search by journal, author, and title fields. They will also learn about Interlibrary loan. If there isn't enough time for an entire library session, the librarian may be able to prepare a hand-out or visit the class for a short (15 minutes) demonstration that will help them find the resource.

Tips, suggestions and warnings: If you don't include the full citation of the articles you would like students to read, make sure that you give them the author's name, article title, and journal name. Without that information, students will have a hard time finding the articles. A few students may be inclined to simply paraphrase the abstract provided in the database, so be sure to tell them you already read those abstracts and expect them to provide more analysis than a summary that has already been written.

Information Literacy Learning Outcomes: The completion of this assignment should satisfy these information literacy outcomes:

- Choose appropriate resources to search for relevant information
- Implement a variety of search strategies to find information effectively and efficiently
- Evaluate resources critically
- Cite research in an appropriate documentation style