Instructor: Ruoyun Bai

Media and Popular Culture in East Asia

MDS/GASC41H3

Winter 2018

Department of Arts, Culture and Media

University of Toronto at Scarborough

Response Essay

Value: 25 points

Due Date: April 5, 2018

Write a response essay of 5-6 pages long (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12pt, paginated). In this essay, you will provide a critical analysis of one scholarly article from the course readings of MDS/GASC41H3. In this critical analysis, you are expected to identify how the main argument of the article is constructed and evaluate its strengths and weaknesses. In order to do so, it is crucial to consider the following questions.

What is the main argument?

How is the argument constructed and how strong is it?

1. a main claim / thesis (Also, pay attention to secondary claims that revolve around and support the main one. How significant is the argument? How does the author explain the significance of his/her/their argument? If the article claims to make a contribution to the field of study, do you think it delivers its promise?)
2. Evidence (How is the claim backed up? What is the quality of the evidence? What kinds of evidence are used? What primary materials are used? What secondary materials are used? Are credible sources cited? Has any evidence been ignored? Has any evidence been over-interpreted?)
3. Reasoning (How well does the evidence lead to the conclusion or back up the claim? Is there a logical relationship between evidence and conclusion?)
4. Other relevant questions (Any erroneous detail? Any inconsistencies?)

The point of the critical analysis is to provide an overall assessment of the article, not to produce a stand-alone research paper about the topic that the article happens to deal with. The questions above are meant to be guiding questions. You do not need to address every single one of them. Also, feel free to design different questions to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the argument.

When you make evaluative claims about an article, you may find it useful to bring in outside sources to support your views. These sources can be academic, journalistic, or even based on personal experiences. Personal experience alone is usually not considered as valid because it tends to be impressionistic and anecdotal. However, it is supported by academic sources, industry data, surveys, etc, it may be effectively used.

All sources must be properly cited using the APA or MLA style.