

Terrorism: A Study in Scarlet

Article Analyses
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During the semester, you will be responsible for analyzing four articles and leading the class discussion on those articles. Consider the Article Analysis as structured note taking on the article. As such, it needs to closely align with the outline below. Also, reading through the notes on the back should help you, and the other members of the class, get the most out of the Article Analyses. Each is worth 25 points.

Outline

- I. APSA Reference entry for the article
 - a. Make sure you reference it correctly

- II. Research question
 - a. What was the research question the author asked?

- III. Literature review
 - a. Where does this article fit in the terrorism literature?
 - b. What were some of the more prevalent articles and researchers the author cited?
 - c. Briefly summarize the literature covered (~3 paragraphs)

- IV. Methods of Research
 - a. Hypotheses tested
 - b. Variables used
 - c. Data source(s) used
 - d. Statistical methods utilized

- V. Conclusions
 - a. What did the author conclude?

- VI. Analysis
 - a. Were the methods appropriate?
 - b. Were the conclusions appropriate?
 - c. Pay attention to the connections between the concepts in the hypotheses, the variables measured, and the definitions of those concepts
 - d. What is your reaction to the article?

Some Suggestions and Notes

To help you get the most from your Article Analyses, please note the following:

- 1) These Article Analyses help you grasp the essentials of the article. Doing an Article Analysis helps you understand the articles well enough to use that understanding in class and for examinations. It also means you will understand the article better than others in the class. You will need to transmit that deeper understanding during class.
- 2) Do not begin your Article Analysis until you understand the article. This is very important! *You must know the important particulars of the article on a visceral level before you can relay them to paper.*
- 3) Make it concise. Most Article Analyses can fit on two pages.
- 4) Use your own words, not the author's. You will remember them longer, and they will mean more to you.
- 5) Follow the outline above. Each roman-numeral above (except for the first) should be a first-level heading with an appropriate, descriptive name. Structure your writing so that the point you are trying to make comes through. Additionally, follow the style sheet when writing your Article Analysis.
- 6) The two places you really need to focus are the literature review summary (III) and your analysis (VI). The first needs you to shrink the entire written literature review into approximately three paragraphs. This means you must determine the author's logic. The second is where you need to ruminate on the article and its suitability for inclusion in the terrorism literature.
- 7) During class, be ready to lead the discussion of the article. This includes coming prepared with questions about the article that the class can answer. It also includes coming prepared with questions helping the students tie your article to other articles we have read in the class.