

Sequence Two Major Paper Claim Worksheet

engl 111 / sec. Q / fall quarter 2006-07 / chang

The following worksheet is designed to help you generate a complex, arguable, academic claim. Begin simply. Identify what you see, understand, wonder about. Then begin to build critical analysis, complexity, stake. Keep in mind what an argumentative claim requires. Keep in mind the assumptions (warrants) you are making. Then attempt to flesh out the claim with direct references to your object of critique or to your readings and research.

Student Name:	
Texts:	
Descriptive Thesis (one sentence):	
What is important about your texts? How do they fit your main idea or question? What are your texts about?	
What is significant about your texts? What do your texts argue? What main ideas are important to you?	
Elaborate Thesis (draw from above and from your texts to complicate your descriptive thesis):	
What argumentative verbs (e.g. 'argues', 'claims', 'defines') can you use instead descriptive verbs (e.g. 'is', 'describes', 'portrays')?	
Argumentative Claim (now make an argument about your texts using your argumentative verbs):	
What are the stakes of your argument? How do you answer the "so what?" question?	
Complex Claim (incorporate a telling quote or piece of evidence and argue how your stakes fit in):	