Understanding Your Article Review

For your article review, you will find a scholarly journal article (written within the last five years) that relates to your position paper—that is, the article should touch (at least, tangentially) on the topic you wrote about for one of your chosen works.

Your article review (or research paper) should contain three parts:

- A summary of the article’s thesis and the textual support the author uses to support that thesis
- An evaluation of the thesis and the textual support for the thesis
- A brief discussion of how the article’s thesis and the thesis of your position paper relate to one another

Sample thesis summary:
In Spectacular Politics: Theatrical Power and Mass Culture in Early Modern England, Paula R. Backscheider examines the historical relationship between the rise of mass culture and the theater by considering “literature as pleasing experience, civic discourse, and hegemonic apparatus” (xi). Backscheider singles out drama as the particular locus for civic discourse because of drama’s connections to governmental ceremony and drama’s growth as a popular entertainment.

Sample textual support:
In Part I: Charles II’s London as National Theater, Backscheider discusses the ways in which Charles II used public ceremony—his coronation, his progresses—to re-establish monarchy as an absolute ideal.

Sample evaluation:
While, throughout Spectacular Politics, Backscheider provides numerous examples to support her claim that Restoration and Eighteenth-Century drama represents an unprecedented forum for mass culture and public discourse, she, in large part, fails to address questions of gender and authorship within a larger historical context . . . In Part III, Backscheider discusses how disruptions of civil power affect notions of authority—and, by extension, authorship—but fails to discuss how these disrupted notions of authority and authoring bear on anxieties about originality and creativity raised in later Romantic works such as Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein.

Due:
Friday, April 29, 5:00 p.m.

OR


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