For your second short paper, you will write a review of a scholarly article that discusses one of the works we’ve read this semester. The article you choose must be at least five pages long.

Your article review 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 your take on the work you’ve chosen to write about relate to each other

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.

Length:
600-700 words

Due Dates:
Friday, March 5, beginning of class Copy of the article
Monday, March 8, beginning of class Completed learning log (over)
Friday, March 12, beginning of class Completed Short Paper 2 (with notes, etc.)
To help you generate your article review, complete the following learning log tasks:

**Learning Log Task 1:**
Write a summary (300-400 words) of your journal article.

**Learning Log Task 2:**
Identify the writer’s thesis.

**Learning Log Task 3:**
Identify the support the writer presents to argue his or her thesis.

**Learning Log Task 4:**
Evaluate the support the writer presents—Does the writer answer all the questions raised by his/her thesis? Does the writer answer potential counterclaims against the thesis?

**Due:**
Monday, March 8, beginning of class