

Getting started with Paper #1

Choose which reading (or two) to analyze

What's your purpose?

Does what you want to write about have the substance to meet the length requirement? If not, what additional questions can you ask? (See the "From Topic to Thesis" handout for ideas!)

Possible avenues of analysis:

- take a side—respond to one of the essays (analyze the issue)
- examine an author's assumptions (analyze the essay itself)
- examine an author's purpose
- examine how an author presents evidence; comparing two different pieces of evidence

Getting started:

- start from annotations
- think about SPECIFIC similarities and differences

When writing on two essays:

- make sure to connect your points
- make sure to HAVE a point!
- don't fall into the "these two essays are similar yet different" trap—why are the similarities/differences interesting or significant?