\*\*A critical analysis does NOT mean explaining what you think of the particular issue at hand (e.g. media images). It DOES mean explaining what you think of the AUTHOR’S perspective about the issue at hand.

\*\*Imagine you are in a cafe or sitting**TIPS FOR PART TWO (CRITICAL ANALYSIS)**

In many of your other courses, you are asked to **evaluate** an author's argument.  That approach entails evaluating whether you think an argument is s**trong or weak; valid or invalid; convincing or non-convincing**. This is **\*not\*** the kind of critical analysis you are asked to do for this class.

\*\*Your assignment is to reflect on the **CONTENT** of the argument rather than the STRUCTURE or LOGIC of the argument. Your assignment is to reflect upon the author’s ideas, critiques, and contributions. This will require using **YOUR OWN VOICE and IDEAS –**and developing your own **REFLECTIONS** upon the author’s ideas.

around a kitchen table talking to the author. Imagine that the author asks you: "What do you think of my perspective? What did you think of my ideas?" Your job is to illustrate that you are responding to questions such as these.

**\*\*Use the first person** or the "I" while you are writing.

\*\***Avoid summaries of the author’s main points** or focusing heavily on the author’s argument. Focus on your ideas/your voice.

**\*\*Be sure to avoid going on a tangent.** Your critical analysis MUST be kept closely linked to what the author’s perspective is about. Throughout, you must show how what you are talking about is related to the ideas in the reading. One way to do this is to write a few sentences that are your own reflections, then add one sentence where you link your own idea back to the author’s essay (For example: The author argues that human trafficking must be understanding in relation to the global economy. To a certain extent, I agree with this. However, I think it also has to do with patriarchy and the ways that prostitution is an acceptable practice in our world).

**\*\*Be sure you are not falling back into summarizing the author’s argument.**

**HOW TO WRITE PART TWO:**

• Sarah Gualtieri is an author who wrote about early Syrian immigrants during the Jim Crow era. Say, for example, in part one, that you said you wanted to write about her perspective that:

“Gualtieri's writes that Syrians were positioned between whites and blacks and many Syrians tried to pass as white to survive the pressures of immigration and Americanization.”

• Your job in part two is NOT to consider whether you think she has a strong or weak argument or whether you think she did a “good job” or a “bad job” proving her point. Instead, your job is to write about WHAT YOU THINK of Gualtieri's argument. **What are your thoughts/reflections on HER ideas and discussion of this situation?** You could, for example, write:

“Her argument led me to think about the unique position of Arabs in light of U.S. racial categories.  I usually think of race in black and white terms. Her reading helped me realize that some people are positioned in between. I wondered if this positioning impacts people’s identities? Does it create confusion for people when they are trying to come to an understanding of who they are in America? When Gualtieri wrote about the unique difficulties Syrian shopkeepers faced because they were not considered white or black, it led me to think about people in today’s society who are positioned between white or black. Our society is still organized in white or black terms. It seems as though kids growing up “in between” may not know where they fit in the identity groups at their schools. It also seems it might be difficult for people “in between” to fight against racism if other people don’t even know anything about them or don’t know that they experience racism. It seems as though this is what Gualtieri was getting at when she illustrated how isolated Syrian shopkeepers were in the Jim Crow era.

**Grade Breakdown for Blogs:**

BLOGS:

Opening: 2/2

Critical Analysis: 4/4

Riff: 3/3

Question for class discussion 1/1

Total: 10/10 points

BLOG RESPONSE:

Completing the assignment: 1/1

Making reference to reading: 1/1

Total: 2 points