

INITIAL RESEARCH INTEGRATION

WHAT IS THIS ASSIGNMENT?

The Initial Research Integration is your opportunity to **extend** and **deepen** the analytical thought you began with the Initial Artifact Analysis, by integrating a minimum of two **quality** secondary sources discovered through your research into a 4–5 page essay. Be sure to follow MLA citation standards, for both in-text notations and works cited.

Quite different from simply adding a few sentences of quotation to your initial analysis, this assignment asks you to **practice revision** in the strictest sense: **seeing anew**. In other words, you are challenged to revisit your artifact with an analytical and rhetorical perspective, and keep breaking down the parts to show how they constitute a whole. Your sources for this assignment are not necessarily those chosen for your Annotated Bibliography; rather, your sources should be chosen solely on whether they help **situate** and **advance** your analysis. You will receive feedback on your Initial Research Integration during our Research Conference.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY “SITUATE” AND “ADVANCE” MY ANALYSIS?

Aim to integrate research that helps situate your artifact, your analysis of it, and the issues they raise into a **larger cultural conversation**. As Gerald Graff and Kathy Birkenstein remind us in *They Say, I Say*, “To make a difference as a writer, you need to do more than make statements that are logical, well supported, and consistent. You must also find a way of entering a conversation with others’ views.” In addition to situating your analysis, work hard to integrate research that advances your analysis—that pushes it to be more nuanced in its **claims**, more thorough in its **reasoning**, and more solid with the **evidence** provided to support those claims.

ANY TIPS?

Think of your sources as **voices in a conversation** that you are simultaneously creating and engaging. Who is talking about the issues raised by your artifact and your analysis of it in a way that helps you reveal something of meaning? Sources are not to be thought of **like a dollar menu of quotations**, where you just snag a few on the cheap. That’s not healthy.

To get started, I recommend you review the feedback received so far. Revisit your artifact and keep analyzing it. Check out **sample essays** on Canvas. **Ask questions**. Be observant. **Commit** yourself.

DUE | 

POINTS | **100**

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