

How to do an “Analyzing Author’s Argument” (AAA):

An AAA is meant to help you understand the author’s argument in the text we are working with. You will need to do the following to fulfill your portfolio requirement:

1. Find the thesis statement (central claim) and type it exactly as it is from the text. We’ll call this a quote. Include the line number . It is one sentence that states what the author’s argument is. Sometimes there may be another sentence that could work as the thesis. You will have to choose.

2. Find three sentences (quotes) that support the thesis, also known as the reasons or reasoning for the author’s thesis. These are an important part of the construction of the argument. Type these up (include line numbers) and explain how each sentence supports the author’s argument. Find the evidence that supports these reasons to help you understand the argument.

3. Is this argument strong or weak? Were you persuaded by the argument? Why? How? What was the strongest part of the author’s argument.

4. Select all the words you do not know and define them. These are what we call SAT words. Do not select formal names or places. *Tip: look these words up before the seminar. Formal names and places can also be a good starting point for the seminar.*

5. Write a short reflection on what you have learned from the text or about yourself.

1 is one sentence. #2, #3 and #5 are one paragraph each.