

SAMPLE UNIT 2 ASSIGNMENTS

On the following pages, you will see 3 sample student submissions for the CM107 Unit 2 Assignment. These 3 sample assignments represent a range of effectiveness. No one submission is perfect, though. Each one has some strengths and weaknesses, but if you review them and the comments on these samples, you will learn some writing strategies to incorporate and some to avoid in your own Unit 2 Assignment. Be sure to always review your assignment instructions and rubric carefully and use them to help make sure your submission is planned, organized, drafted, revised and edited as effectively as possible and to ensure that you are meeting and hopefully exceeding all expectations. Once you have read all 3 samples, think about what you have learned from these 3 samples and consider carefully what you would need to avoid when writing your own Unit 2 Assignment, as well as what you would need to do to ensure that your submission meets all assignment requirements and is clear, concise, complete and correct.

Sample #1 follows on the next page. It is the strongest of all 3 samples, is more focused and better organized than the other two examples and earns a much higher grade as a result of not only following directions but also for being mostly clear, concise, complete and correct, hallmarks of effective writing.

Forensic Science: A Time of Transformation

Marsha Brown

Any University

Forensic Science: A Time of Transformation

In an article published in the National Institute of Justice (“NIJ”) Journal No 277 posted June 2016 and titled *Forensic Science: A Time of Transformation*, author Jim Dawson addressed an audience of criminal justice professionals to inform them about the current turmoil in the forensic, legal, and law enforcement communities. The article was written to shed light on the present conflict between the “rule-of-law” ethic in the courtroom and forensic science ethics. The article recommended scientists refrain from using terms like “individualization” and “identification” to connect a piece of evidence to a precise person. Instead, it suggested recommended language like “The likelihood of observing this amount of correspondence when two impressions are made by different sources is considered extremely low.” One scientist felt that he was being asked to “pretend I’m uncertain when I’m certain” and in doing so, his profession was being damaged. The author wrote about how the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (“OSAC”) was being established.

In order to develop his main point, the author uses various writing strategies. He first analyzes specifically how the lack of knowledge between lawyers and scientists about the other’s respective field could cause forensics-based disputes in the courtroom. The author also used research evidence from forensics experts to demonstrate that this issue is a complex problem needing attention and a possible solution. The author analyzed this research information to explain how complicated it could be for forensic scientists who were trained differently to change their way of thinking. He also compared observations made by forensics experts to those of medical experts to argue that forensic science could be transformed by using the observational model that medical experts apply. Finally, he examined the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and forensic community’s effort to establish standard through the OSAC and provided evidence that this effort would further transform this field.

In general, the article was effectively written and the author was effective in providing the audience the information they need to understand the transformation this field is undergoing. The writing is clear, concise, complete and correct. The evidence was up to date and came from experts, and for the most part, the author used terminology appropriate to his audience. There were, however, a few points he

Commented [JV1]: Notice how paragraph 1 clearly and effectively addresses all required assignment components. The author, title, and publication are identified. The writer identifies the intended audience and the specific purpose, as well as providing a summary.

Commented [JV2]: Since the assignment asks the writer to summarize the article, the use of quotes here is problematic. Consider avoiding any quotes and instead show you can summarize the article you read in your own words.

Commented [JV3]: Notice how the writer uses clear TRANSITIONS to link paragraphs.

The writing is also strong because the student establishes clear topic sentences for paragraph 2 and 3. Notice how these topic sentences help the student to stay focused on the assignment requirements

Commented [JV4]: Notice that this student does not confuse SUMMARY with ANALYSIS. The writer identifies specific writing strategies the author uses to develop the main point

Commented [JV5]: This paragraph is clearly focused on what makes the writing effective. It could be stronger if the student writer clarified what made the writing clear, concise, and complete, though.

should have explained in greater detail considering his audience. For example, the target audience may not be familiar with medicine and therefore, would not know about the 1854 cholera outbreak in London. As a whole, the article was well written and overall successful.

UNIT 2 ASSIGNMENT SAMPLE #2

This sample does not include a title page and notice that without a title page, the reader has no way of identifying who the writer is. Notice also that unlike sample #1 above, sample # 2 is less organized and does not follow the assignment instructions as carefully. That does not mean it is without merit. The writer does address many of the assignment requirements, but this submission is less successful than the previous sample and would receive a lower grade than the first sample above. The second sample begins on the next page.

In this article the author, Marco Carbajo, attempts to provide his audience with steps to build trust in a business. "5 Ways to Build Trust in a Business", was published by The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA.gov) in December 9, 2014. This informative article gives us 5 ways to build trust and credibility for your business. Marco Carbajo is trying to reach out this information to a business audience. This information is meant to help businesses by getting them to realize that "with honesty, ambition, hard work, and attention to detail you can instill a level of trust that will enable you to move forward." (Carbajo, M. 2014)

By following the SQ3R method, I've surveyed the article and then asked myself if this was an article I was interested in, was it an article I wanted to read? Next, I read the article and during this stage learned the importance of trust in a business. It is here that I understood what the author is trying to do. I did not see very much citations so from this I assume that the author wrote most of this article based on personal experience and only a little bit of research. After reading the article, I reread and asked myself if I agreed with the author. Does what he say makes sense? Some of the steps mentioned in the article include, sticking to any promises made, effective communication, following compliance and the rules, having a solid reputations, and also being credit worthy. Finally, I took a moment to think one more time about what Marco Carbajo was writing about and was he successful in reaching out to his audience.

In conclusion, I feel this article is very well written. The author started with an introduction briefly informing the reader what he is about to write about. The body of the article is separated into 5 points that are easy to read and easy to follow. Each of these steps are thought out and make sense. I believe that this article was successful in reaching out to the intended audience and provided the information that the author meant to provide his readers. Marco Carbajo provides information that if taken seriously by the reader could have the potential to help ones business by building that trust and integrity within that business. If I were to make any changes or suggestions about this article it would be to "present sufficient information to explain new findings about the topic." Our readings on "Writing an Informative Essay" tells us that illustrations such as examples, or comparing and contrasting are very important in providing details to help the reader understand better. I think this article may have been slightly improved if there were more research, more examples of what Mr. Carbajo was explaining to us. But, I feel overall a well written, informative article.

Commented [JV6]: Notice that this assignment submission does identify audience and purpose of the article. The writer relies on quotes from the article rather than summarizing the article in his own words, which is required for a summary.
Should the writer double space these paragraphs?

Commented [JV7]: Here the writer seems to lose focus on the assignment instructions. Should the writer describe his process for reading and understanding the article?
Using a clear transition that immediately focuses the paragraph on information and writing strategies the author uses to support his main point would perhaps make this paragraph stronger and more focused on the assignment instructions.

Commented [JV8]: There is some mention here of information from the article, but most of this paragraph is not addressing the requirements for paragraph 2.

Commented [JV9]: This paragraph's topic sentence does seem to focus on the issue of effectiveness of the article.

Commented [JV10]: Does the writer say why this is so?

Commented [JV11]: This might be information more relevant to paragraph 2, since this is really discussing writing strategies used to develop the writer's main point. The writer could identify what examples were used, what was compared and contrasted, what details were used, and if placed in paragraph 2, that would strengthen the focus of this submission.

UNIT 2 ASSIGNMENT SAMPLE #3

This student submission is less successful than Sample #1 and Sample #2. The writer has not selected an appropriate journal article and instead the writer has read a newspaper article. The submission does start by addressing some of the required information in paragraph 1, but paragraphs 2 and 3 do not address the information that the assignment instructions ask for. As a result, this student submission would receive a much lower grade than Sample paper #2 above. Sample paper #3 begins on the next page.

The article that I chose is, "A Brooklyn School's Curriculum Includes Ambition." I found my article in, The New York Times, written by Winnie HU, at <http://www.nytimes.com>. The author makes main points that have occurred in the past in the areas around this school. Also, Winnie mentions that kids were getting beat up just walking through the different projects around the schools. It think that the author is trying to get the attention of the whole society and the world, to see that this isn't okay and it shouldn't be allowed to happen to these kids. It talks about how poverty and certain locations determine the type of education that a child is given.

Commented [JV12]: Does the writer need to indicate that he or she chose the article-won't the audience (The instructor) know that the student chose and read this article because he or she is writing about it?

Commented [JV13]: Notice that there might be a misunderstanding of the assignment directions here. This writer chose a newspaper article. Should this be an article from a professional journal focusing on an issue in this student's field of study?

Commented [JV14]: The author does identify an audience and purpose, but is the audience precise? the whole society and the world seems a bit broad. Do we get more specific clues as to the specific audience through the title, the subject, and the publication itself?

The principal of Mott Hall Bridges Academy, Nadia Lopez is trying to show the children that she is not different and everyone deserves a chance. Ms. Lopez treats her students all the same, and shows them that reaching for what's better, isn't always going to be a turn down. As I was reading the article I kept thinking about all questions that I had, but the principal makes the change that needs to happen. As everything starts by one person doing right, then the other to follow them and it helps make a change in societies. I think that it was very important of Ms. Lopez to take the step and show these kids that they don't need to go to school, but they deserve it. As education is very important, this amazing lady is teaching these children that they deserve nothing but the best in their lives. I think that all children deserve the same education, and it shouldn't depend on what side of town they are from, and they shouldn't be afraid of being hurt walking down the street. People wonder why children grow up to be the way that they are, but it's really developing by the way society is allowing it to continue. Wealth doesn't necessarily describe a person for who they are, but for what it has been earned. As it has mentioned, a 12-year old boy Kareem was jumped by other from a different project.

Commented [JV15]: Should the student writer focus on what she did while she read the article, or should this paragraph focus on analyzing the information and writing strategies the article writer uses to develop the main point of the article?

Commented [JV16]: Should the writer address what she thinks about the subject of the article in general, whether she agrees with the idea of all students deserving an education?

In conclusion, I think that anything can be fixed as long as the society is willing to help change the problem. As many people just turn their shoulders to what is going on, it needs

Commented [JV17]: Does this paragraph address whether the article is effective or not, whether it meets the audience's needs and whether it is clear, concise, complete and correct? No, and unfortunately, because of the problems with not following directions, the student will not receive as high a grade as she would if she reviewed the instructions carefully and used them as a checklist while planning, organizing, developing, revising and editing her project.

to be made clear that the children aren't safe. Ms. Lopez see's the true picture of what these kids face on a day to day basis, and want's the whole society to see it and help fix it. I think that this story should be made nationwide, so that everyone can be aware of what is exactly is happening in the different projects. Every child deserves to be provided with the best and the encouragement from the peers and adults around them.