

**Decoding Primary Sources and Historical Arguments:
Defining what Students Have to Do
History Learning Project
Oxford, April 1, 2009
Appendix 2**

Modeling Argument

Example 1: Modeling how to read and review an article

Article Review

Your article review should be around 500 words. The heading of the review should be the bibliographic citation, done in the Chicago Manual format (this is the format used by historians). I have created a link to the on-line Chicago Manual from our web site. Your review should cover these points.

1. What is the **subject matter** of the article? Be specific about the place and time covered by the author.
2. What is the **argument** presented by the author or the author's point? Remember that scholars don't write articles just to tell you "all about" something.
3. What **counter-arguments** does the author acknowledge? Please be sure to mention the scholars who are on the "other side."
4. What **evidence** does the author use in support of his or her position? You don't need to list the individual pieces of evidence, but the types.

Example 2: Modeling how to connect thesis, propositions, and evidence

Day 12 Web Assignment

You are writing a paper on male and female gender roles, based on the readings.

1. Briefly state the thesis that you will defend in the paper.
2. Make a list of three basic propositions that you need to support in order to make your interpretation credible to readers.
3. Give one piece of evidence that supports each proposition.
4. Explain how this evidence makes this proposition more convincing.