

***The Story of Stuff* Critique**

How has Annie Leonard used her sources? Write a critique of a section within *The Story of Stuff*, claiming that she did or did not use her own sources well.

Select, Unpack, Search, Argue

Begin by selecting a section in the book: what caught your attention, for better or for worse? What did you want to know more about? Choose some section of the book whose argument particularly interests you—whose background source(s) you would like to read for yourself.

Then find those sources. You might only write about one source, reading it carefully and making an argument about its own value as a source, then discussing whether Leonard does or does not use it well.

Make sure that you summarize the source(s): identify main claims and discuss the issue(s) on which those claims rise and fall? Unpack the evidence through the source's own enabling assumptions and perspectives. Then consider how Leonard interprets and conveys that information in her text. Has she researched well? Has she used her source(s) responsibly? What other kinds of evidence would you have liked to see?

Individual Conferences

In class on Wednesday, September 22, and Friday, September 24, we will enjoy peer workshops and individual conferences on full drafts of your critiques. Each day, bring a full draft to share with your peers and with me: prepare to ask questions you have and identify places in the draft where you have had trouble and want to improve.

Final Deadline

Write 3-4 pages, formatting the assignment according to MLA style (see *St. Martin's Handbook* 300f). Include a Works Cited list for every source you reference. Submit your full draft via email no later than midnight Tuesday, September 28.

Optional Revision

If you want to revise your critique, you may do so for a replacement grade. Every revision must be accompanied by a one-page argument for why I should read your revision: discuss what you have done differently and why. Revisions are due no later than one week after I return the graded critiques.

The Honor Code

Feel free to consult the Centenary Writing Lab at any point in this writing process, but do not consult anyone else. For this assignment, you may only receive assistance/guidance from me and from Writing Lab staff; anything else violates the Honor Code.