

UNST 124g fall 2011
all together now...

1 introduction

Essays are written in a variety of styles, depending on the goals of the writer. Identifying the purpose and a style appropriate to it can help you to organize your thoughts in a clear and concise way. Here you are asked to write an **argumentative** essay. In an argumentative essay, the writer establishes a thesis, states and evaluates evidence relevant to that thesis, and includes and refutes alternatives where appropriate. The goal is to demonstrate the validity of the thesis. This is similar to but different from a persuasive essay, in which the goal is to convince the reader to adopt the writer's position.

Essays all share a common underlying structure: introduction, body, and conclusion. The introduction usually contains a clearly defined thesis and explains to the reader why the topic is important. The body of the essay contains a description and discussion of evidence related to the thesis. The conclusion returns to the thesis presented at the outset and addresses it in light of the evidence provided in the preceding paragraphs. Just as it can be helpful to create a hierarchical outline of an essay before you begin to write, translating an essay into an outline can be an effective method for identifying and understanding what you are reading.

2 assignment

Do you agree or disagree with the assertion that prior to the rise of agriculture, human ecosystem function was similar to other animals? Use evidence from Rowley-Conwy (2011), Mann (2002), and other sources as required to support your argument.

Be sure to cite your sources appropriately using APA style. Please do not use too many quotes from your primary sources. You are asked to formulate your own argument and *support* it using evidence from primary sources. The ideas and words should be your own.

3 references

Mann, Charles. (2002, March). 1491. *Atlantic Monthly*, 41-53. Retrieved from <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2002/03/1491/2445>.

Rowley-Conwy, P. and Layton, R. (2011). Foraging and farming as niche construction: stable and unstable adaptations. *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B*, 366, 849-862.