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Engl 101 – Fall 2017

Prof. Fulton

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Essay 1 – Collapse and Extinction

SIGNAL PHRASES: 2 KINDS

* **Full Introductory Signal Phrase** (to be used when the source is mentioned for the first time; usually in the introduction, but for essay 1 you will probably want to do this in the paragraph dedicated to discussing “Easter’s End” )
	+ “Title”
	+ Author (full name)
	+ Type of media
	+ Purpose (always starts with a VERB) = author’s main argument
		- In the article, “Easter’s End,” the author, Jared Diamond discusses the reasons for the collapse of the Rapa Nui (or Easter Island) civilization.
* **Partial Signal Phrase**
	+ Author’s last name
	+ Type of media
	+ Specific purpose = (sub-argument)
		- In his article, Diamond argues that the construction of the Moai was detrimental to the Rapa Nui for several reasons.
		- AFTERWARDS you can switch between “Diamond” and “the author” or “he” when referring to the writer of the article
			* BE CAREFUL referring to “the author” if you are discussing multiple articles

**SOURCE INTEGRATION**

* TOPIC SENTENCE
	+ The main point or argument of a particular body paragraph
	+ It is a sub-argument of the thesis statement
		- *Thesis statement example*:

 **If civilization is to end, it is likely to be caused by human activity.**

* + - * *Topic sentence example (sub*-*argument*)

 **The Rapa Nui civilization is an example of how human action can lead directly to the collapse of a civilization. The islander’s preoccupation with the construction of the Moai statues led to the depletion of resources which resulted in a rapid societal decline.**

* EVIDENCE
	+ Used to support the claim made in the topic sentence
	+ Presentation of evidence begins with a signal phrase
	+ Evidence can be presented as:
		1. Direct quote
		2. An integrated quote (your words + author’s words)
		3. Partial Paraphrase (quoting + paraphrase)
		4. Full paraphrase
	+ Evidence always followed by citation
	+ After citation comes the interpretation.

**TOPIC SENTENCE 🡪****The Rapa Nui civilization is an example of how human action can lead directly to the collapse of a civilization. The islander’s preoccupation with the construction of the Moai statues led to the depletion of resources which resulted in a rapid societal decline. 🡪 EVIDENCE In his article, “Easter’s End,” Jared Diamond describes how the islanders depleted their natural resources for the for the construction of their statues. He notes, with regards to the native palm trees that were used for the Moai project that “not long after 1400 the palm finally became extinct, not only as a result of being chopped down but also because the now ubiquitous rats prevented its regeneration” thus leading to a barren, treeless island. (31).**

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**“Easter’s End,” an article by Jared Diamond, discusses how the islanders depleted their natural resources for the for the construction of their statues. He notes, with regards to the native palm trees that were used for the Moai project that “not long after 1400 the palm finally became extinct, not only as a result of being chopped down but also because the now ubiquitous rats prevented its regeneration” thus leading to deforestation and a loss of their valuable resources. (31) 🡪 INTERPRETATION What this means is…**

**In discussing how the islanders depleted their natural resources for the construction of their statues, Jared Diamond, in his article “Easter’s End” is implicating the Rapa Nui in their own destruction.**

**Luis Alvarez, the lead researcher of the article “Extraterrestrial Cause for the Cretaceous Tertiary Extinction,” describes the theory of how an asteroid impact led to the extinction of the dinosaurs.**

**K-T Event (Cretaceous Tertiary Extinction)**

* How did the dinosaurs die?
* Volcanoes world-wide? Diseases? Loss of habitat?
* Consensus: Extraterrestrial impact (asteroid 🡪 meteorite 🡪 strikes Earth)

BODY PARAGRAPH #2: “Extraterrestrial Cause for the Cretaceous-Tertiary Extinction”

* Presenting long titles in-text (in the body of your essay, as opposed to Works Cited page). You are permitted to use an abbreviated title: “Extraterrestrial Cause…”
* Presenting multiple authors of a single article in-text. Use the name of the lead author in the signal phrase:
	+ Intro. Signal phrase:
		- Luis Alvarez, *et al*
		- Luis Alvarez and his research team
	+ Partial signal phrase/all subsequent mentions of article
		- Alvarez
		- The author/the research team/the team
		- He/his/him
	+ Citations
		- (page #)
		- (Alvarez, *et al* 36)

Link the first and second BPs with an appropriate transitional word, phrase, or expression

* “In addition…” (we are adding on to the discussion of extinction/societal collapse)
* “Similarly…” “In a similar way/manner…” “Likewise…” (we comparing the Rapa Nui collapse to the K-T extinction)
* “Secondly…” “Next…” (these are OK transitions… they show movement in the essay)

In a similar way, archeologist Luis Alvarez and his team of researchers have hypothesized the collapse of an entire species, specially, the dinosaurs of the Cretaceous era. In his team’s article, “Extraterrestrial Cause for the Cretaceous-Tertiary Extinction,” Alvarez argues that the so-called K-T Extinction Event which killed off the dinosaurs was caused by a meteorite hitting the planet at the Yucatan Peninsula. [NOW I’M READY TO PARAPHRASE. BUT WHAT AM I GOING TO PARAPHRASE? We want to discuss the PROCESSES of:

* 1. How the meteorite caused the extinction (fairly easy to describe)
	2. How the team came to its conclusion (more complex)

		+ You do not need to provide counter hypotheses
		+ It might be worthwhile to compose a process flow chart to help you.
1. Asteroid entered Earth’s atmosphere 🡪 becomes meteorite 🡪 strikes Earth at the Yucatan Pen. 🡪 Ejecta from the strike is thrown up into the atmosphere 🡪 Worldwide cloud cover of ash/ejecta 🡪 sunlight is blocked out 🡪 photosynthesis cannot happen 🡪 plants die off 🡪 large herbivores die off 🡪 large carnivores die off 🡪 EXTINCTION
2. HYPOTHESIS 🡪 Discovery of iridium in Earth’s crust (iridium = meteorite) 🡪 found in Europe (2 locations) 🡪 Iridium layer found in New Zealand = world-wide phenomenon 🡪 Krakatoa research = support for worldwide coverage of ejecta/ash 🡪Meteor size estgimate = 10 KM = large enough to lead to extinction 🡪 Meteor strike corresponds in time to the K-T extinction 🡪 THEORY *[🡪 other researchers would replicate the team’s work] 🡪 CONFIRMATION OF THEORY*

Alvarez and his team began with a hypothesis for the K-T extinction. [🡪 BEGIN SUMMARY OF HYPOTHESIS] The team believe that a large meteor struck the Earth at the Yucatan Peninsula. The strike threw ejecta into the atmosphere, causing a world-wide cloud of dust which prevented photosynthesis. This led to a chain of events where large herbivores were unable to sustain themselves, which in turn caused the collapse of large carnivore populations. (Alvarez, *et al* 37)

For multiple works from an anthology

Last name, First name. "Title of Essay." Title of Collection, edited by Editor's Name(s), Publisher, Year, Page range of entry.

Works Cited

Alvarez, Luis W, Walter Alvarez, Frank Asaro, and Helen V. Michel. “from Extraterrestrial Cause for the Cretaceous-Tertiary Extinction” Science *and Society: An Anthology for Readers and Writers.* Catherine Nelson-McDermott, Laura Buzzard, and Don LePan, Eds. Broadview. 2014. 36-51.

Diamond, Jared. “Easter’s End” Nelson-McDermott. 25-35.

Kolbert, Elizabeth. “The Sixth Extinction?” Nelson-McDermott. 52-73

BP #3 : “Sixth Extinction?” - 50% integrated quoting + 50% paraphrasing

When to quote:

* *When paraphrasing would take away from the rhetorical point the author is trying to make:*
* *ALSO, you WANT to use the ethos (reputation) of the expert.*
* Once a mass extinction occurs, it takes millions of years for life to recover, and when it does it generally has a new cast of characters; following the end-Cretaceous event, mammals rose up (or crept out) to replace the departed dinosaurs.

Kolbert notes that “once a mass extinction occurs, it take millions of years for life to recover [leaving behind] a new cast of characters …mammals…to replace the departed dinosaurs.” (55)

* *When your author is quoting someone in his or her article.*
* “Unfortunately, we are losing all these amphibians before we even know that they exist.” Griffith

1. In the article, Kolbert quotes Griffith as saying “unfortunately, we are losing all these amphibians before we even know that they exist.” (56).

2. Regarding his research into the extinction of frogs in Panama, Griffith laments that “unfortunately, we are losing all these amphibians before we even know that they exist.” (Kolbert 56)

Andrew Blaustien “The debate was whether or not there really was an amphibian population problem, because some people were saying it was just natural variation.”

* *When quoting an expert used by an author in his or her article, provide the experts credentials in the signal phrase (when you mention the expert the FIRST time. Afterwards, just use the last name) CREDENTIALS = CREDIBILITY = ETHOS = STRONGER LOGOS FOR YOU ESSAY*
* [SIGNAL🡪] Andrew Blaustien, a zoology professor, [PURPOSE] observes with regard to anthropogenic causes of frog extinction that the “debate was whether or not there really was an amphibian population problem, [or] it was just natural variation.” (Kolbert 59)
1. Ordovian – 400 MYA – Majority of sea life – Gamma ray burst (?)
2. Devonian – 360 MYA – Majority of sea life – Comet impact (?)
3. Permian – 252 MYA – 70% land animals – Volcanism(!)
4. Triassic – 201 MYA – 34% of marine life – Climate change (!)
5. Cretaceous – 65 MYA ¾ of all life on the planet – Meteor impact (!)
6. Holocene – 10,000 BCE – *ongoing –* Anthropogenic (!)

When to direct quote (DQ)? When to paraphrase

* DQ *when* paraphrasing would impact the meaning or the tone of the original source
* DQ when the use of authoritative voice would help YOUR ethos (reputation)
* Paraphrase/summarize when statistical, factual, numbers-based data are used by a source
	+ Pg 53 “Of the many species that have existed on Earth, estimates run as high as fifty billon – more than 99% have disappeared”
		- It is interesting and perhaps terrify to note that of all the billions of species that have ever lived on the planet, 99% of them have gone extinct. (Kolbert 53).

“So profound is our ignorance, and so high our presumption, that we marvel when we hear of the extinction of an organic being; and as we do not see the cause, we invoke cataclysms to desolate the world.” = Charles Darwin himself was skeptic of major extinction events. He tended to believe that we were “ignorant” of a cause and therefore essentially made up catastrophes. *Summary loses the authoritative voice of Darwin. In this case, I should consider a using DQ*

 Although it’s now well established that there have five major extinction events, the science of extinction is very recent. In fact, Charles Darwin himself was skeptic of major extinction events. He observed that “So profound is our ignorance, and so high our presumption, that we marvel when we hear of the extinction of an organic being… we invoke cataclysms to desolate the world.” (Kolbert 54).

*When do we want to do a combination of DQ and paraphrasing?*

* + *When we have a long passage that has a lot of information. Some of that info may be helpful, some be extraneous, and some of it may have “quotable material”*
* It is difficult to say when, exactly, the current extinction event – sometimes called the sixth extinction – began. What might be thought of as its opening phase appears to have started about fifty thousand years ago. [PARAPHRASE] At that time, Australia was home to a fantastic assortment of enormous animals; these included a wombatlike creature the size of a hippo, a land tortoise nearly as big as a VW Beetle, and the giant short-faced kangaroo, which grew to be ten feet tall.[DQ ONE EXAMPLE] Then all of the continent’s largest animals disappeared. Every species of marsupial weighing more than two hundred pounds – there were nineteen of them – vanished, [PARAPHRASE] as did three species of giant reptiles and a flightless bird with stumpy legs known as Genyornis newtoni.
	+ SUMMARY OF THE POINT OF THE SOURCE: Extinction threatens the largest species first

What seems to be clear in all cases of global extinction is that the larger the animal, the more vulnerable it tends to be. The current extinction event, as discussed by Kolbert, began approximately 50,000 years ago and hit the isolated continent of Australia particularly hard. Extremely large creatures such “a land tortoise nearly as big as a VW Beetle" went extinct. Indeed, all of the large marsupials on the island “vanished.” (60). 🡪 [INTERP.]

Quote within a source (not the author)

“We expect extinction when people arrive on an island,” David Steadman, the curator of ornithology at the Florida Museum of Natural History, has written. “Survival is the exception.”

* + - GOAL: To use the quote that Kolbert uses, WITHOUT mention Kolbert (outside of the citation)

**SIGNAL PHRASE + EXPERTISE OF PERSON QUOTED**

ESTABLISHES EXPERTISE OF SOURCE

 According to ornithologist David Steadman “we expect extinction when people arrive on an island.” (Kolbert 61). Human beings, by their nature, tend to change the environment simply by their presence. Either intentionally – through active use and destruction of the flora and fauna – or unintentionally – by introducing viruses and encroaching non-indigenous species (such as dogs and grazing animals), people negatively impact the lands they settle in. [🡪 2 more sentences] Ultimately, Steadman’s assertion that “survival is the exception” turns out to be accurate more often than not. Mankind (?) is in a real sense a kind of plague, spreading across the planet. (ibid)