

**Human Ecology (BSC 202)**  
**Summer 2008**  
**WRITING CRITIQUES**

The written critique of the first class reading is worth 25 points and is due at the beginning of class on Monday 30 June 2008. The article you are to critique is entitled, “The war of roses: demilitarizing invasion biology,” written by Brendon MH Larson. The article is available on the class web site: <http://www.bio.ilstu.edu/anderson/bsc202/index.htm>. This handout is to provide you with some guidance as to how you should prepare your critique.

You should begin by carefully reading the article paying particular attention to the major ideas the author is trying to express. When you have finished the first reading of the article, skim through the reading and jot down or highlight the important ideas. Pay attention to such features of the readings such as the source of information that the author has used, the logic of their arguments, and the information (evidence) they use to support their ideas.

A critique begins as a summary, to which you add your own evaluation of the paper. Your critique may begin with a sentence or two, which summarizes the purpose of the reading. What were the author’s objectives in writing the article? You need to write the summary in your own words, avoiding the lifting of sentences or key phrases from the reading without giving appropriate recognition of the source of sentences or phrases (i.e. placing them in quotations). If you quote directly from the readings, these should be limited and comprise a small portion of your critique.

Simply summarizing the article is not sufficient for a critique of the reading. You need to add your evaluation of the reading. In the evaluation portion of the critique you get to say what you thought about the reading especially by incorporating knowledge you have gained from lecture, textbooks, or other sources. The evaluation can include: Were the author’s objectives effectively achieved in writing the article?

Some specific questions/issues that can be addressed in the critique are listed below. However, your critique does not have to be limited to a consideration of these issues:

1. Do you agree or disagree with the authors’ supposition that invasion biologist (biologist that study invasive species) use militaristic terms and combative metaphors to describe invasive species and how they should be controlled? Can you cite examples from class lectures and readings to support your point of view?
2. Do you agree with the author that militaristic metaphors contribute to “public misunderstanding of invasive species and even misperception by conservations themselves.”
3. The author proposes that use of non-militaristic terms would result in broader public support for efforts to control invasive species. Is this a reasonable supposition?
4. Is the author correct in assuming that human are a primary factor in causing the occurrence and spread of invasive species and even suggesting that invasive species and humans may have a somewhat symbiotic relationship?
5. The authors states that “militaristic metaphors may also affect perceptions of scientific objectivity because of their resonance within the contemporary political setting.” Do you agree with this statement? Even if the statement is correct, how would this perception of scientific objectivity affect the ability of scientists to effectively deal with invasive species?

**FOLLOW THIS FORMAT PRECISELY TO RECEIVE FULL FORMAT CREDIT:**

- 1. The assignment should be 2-3 pages of double-spaced text.**
- 2. The assignment must be typed text using 1" margins and 12-point font.**
- 3. Do not have a cover page--type only your name in the upper right hand corner of the first page.**
- 4. Number the pages and staple them together.**
- 6. Turn in the assignment as a hard copy; no email attachments will be accepted.**