Academic Outlines:
<u>Identifying Essay Construction</u>
Weight: 100/1000 points

One of the major elements of successful academic writing is clarity. Making the purpose of an essay clear doesn't just require the writer to relate his or her thoughts through understandable and fluent sentences; it requires the writer to construct an essay that guides its reader through numerous points via an easily discernable construction. The purpose of this assignment is to familiarize ourselves with the underlying structure and organization of academic or scholarly articles. Ultimately, once we are able to identify these constructions, we can begin to see how to use them in our own work. We will be able see what is successful, where others have faltered, and, ultimately, that all writers must actively build a composition with the intention of providing a rhetorical space the audience can successfully navigate.

Find an essay written by a professor at Purdue that works in your field of interest. After reading the essay, create an extensive outline that follows the main argument through its various points, sub-points, and counterarguments. You must then do the same for another essay provided in class. After both outlines are complete, you will write a reflection on the two essays. This reflection should address your experiences with unpacking the essays' construction. What made your job as a reader easier? At what point(s) did you lose track of the author's argument, and why do they think that happened? The goal is for you to begin to recognize that sophisticated writing of all types and genres have underlying frames on which they are built.

Components:
1. Outline of Purdue professor's essay
2. Outline of an essay provided in class
3. Reflection (1-2 pages, double-spaced)

Guidelines:
1. Your outlines must be formal in nature (follow guidelines given in class)
2. Follow Paper Format Guidelines as set out in your Course Policies
3. You must provide a Works Cited sheet that cites the two articles/essays you outlined