



## RWS 100: Paper #1 Prompt Analyzing Johann Hari's "The Likely Cause of Addiction Has Been Discovered..."

Rough draft due: February 9

Final paper due: February 14

Length: 4 (full) Pages min. 6 pages max.

In your analysis of Johann Hari's "The Likely Cause of Addiction Has Been Discovered, and It Is Not What You Think," you are expected to discern elements of context embedded in arguments—the clues that show what the argument is responding to, both in the sense of what has come before it and that it is written for an audience in a particular time and place; examine a writer's language in relation to audience, context, and community.

### How to structure your paper

#### Part 1. Introduction (2 paragraphs)

- ❑ Introduce and contextualize Hari's text. Explain the rhetorical situation (the author, context, purpose, genre, audience). What is Hari's project? (What sort of work does he set out to do, how, and why?)
- ❑ Describe the author's main argument - what is he trying to get his audience to believe?
- ❑ Identify the audience for Hari's text.
- ❑ State your thesis! Your thesis should succinctly sum up Hari's main argument and where it fits into the entire "conversation."

#### Part 2. The Body (3-5 paragraphs)

In this section, you will analyze 2 of Hari's claims that Hari uses to back up his overall argument:

- ❑ Identify how each claim fits in the context of the overall conversation; is this claim reinforcing what people believe, challenging assumptions, illustrating old ideas, complicating our understanding of addiction?
- ❑ Identify the rhetorical strategies he uses for each claim and what mode(s) of persuasion they appeal to.
- ❑ Analyze the evidence used for each strategy/claim, and whether it is sufficient, credible, and relevant
- ❑ Analyze the effect of each claim on Hari's intended audience
- ❑ Judge whether you think Hari effectively proves his claim for his intended audience
- ❑ Use an effective structure that carefully guides your reader from one idea to the next, thoroughly editing your writing so it is comprehensible and appropriate for an academic audience.



### Part 3: The Conclusion (2 paragraphs)

- ❑ In this section, you will explain the significance of the argument – consider his argument (and its effectiveness) as whole, how does Hari’s argument matter in the entire conversation?
- ❑ Has the author effectively set out what he wanted to do?
- ❑ How do you think Hari has changed or altered the conversation, and the context of how we approach treating addiction?
- ❑ Feel free to add your own personal response to Hari (did it change your mind? Why/why not?)

*As always, the Modern Language Association (MLA) format is a must:*

- Times New Roman or Soutane, size 12 font
- Double Spaced with 1” margins
- Page numbers
- Works Cited page
- **Stapled**

Remember to focus on the text’s argument and **how** it is constructed, not merely what it is about. Write the paper as if you are addressing an audience that has not read the text, and thus requires that you “spell things out.”

