# Daniel Caeton

# English 125

**Essay 2: Analysis and Counterargument**

# **Topic**

# Over the years, intelligence tests have been refined and revised to make them more scientific and accurate. Many of us feel comfortable relying on intelligence tests in some situations. For example, how many of us would willingly be the patient of a doctor who has scored extremely low on an intelligence test? Yet, there are those who object to intelligence tests both because of how they are written and administered and because of what they may say about society’s values. In his essay, “Thinking About Thinking,” Isaac Asimov, the prolific twentieth-century science-fiction writer, explains his position on intelligence tests.

# Your job in this second writing assignment is to compose a formal essay that analyzes Asimov’s argument in “Thinking About Thinking” and that provides a thoughtful counterargument to his argument. You must include a counterargument to Asimov’s position even if you actually agree with Asimov.

# **Task**

Analyzing involves taking something apart and explaining how the pieces fit together. Assume that your reader has not read “Thinking About Thinking”; this means that you will have to carefully explain how Asimov arrives at his main point and what ideas he uses to support his main point. You must focus on the important parts of Asimov’s essay and not focus too much on his colorful examples. Organization is crucial. You will need to find the right balance of analysis and counterargument in your essay.

In your introduction, you should clearly state Asimov’s main point and foreshadow your counterargument, which should itself be developed toward the end of your essay. Much of your essay should analyze the essential parts of Asimov’s argument by showing your reader how his points combine to support his position. You should state and develop a clear counterargument to Asimov’s position. To strengthen your analysis and your counterargument you will need to include and properly cite direct quotations of “Thinking About Thinking.”

The main skills that you will practice in this essay are explained in sections R-4a, R-4b, R-4c, R-4e, MLA-a1, MLA-a2, and MLA-c7 of the second edition of *The Little Seagull Handbook with Exercises*.

### **Format**

All drafts must be at least three double-spaced pages long. All drafts must be typed in twelve-point Times New Roman font. You must only use the version of “Thinking About Thinking” found in *The Norton Mix*. You must follow the most recent MLA documentation guidelines by including a Works Cited page and providing in-text citations of all paraphrased and quoted material. The due dates for the rough draft, the peer reviews, and the final draft are listed in the syllabus and on your Canvas calendar.

**Key Terms:** Analysis, Summary, Signal Phrases, Works Cited Page, In-Text Citations