

Sample of a Critical Analysis Essay of “Two Principles of Justice”

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I. Sample of an Introduction Section

The unjust social system undermines the effectiveness of human struggles to achieve equality. Basically, many individuals assume that they cannot access equal justice. In this case, Rawls argues that every society should ensure that all people access equal justice. Moreover, the first principle by Rawls advocates for equal liberty and equal rights to all citizens. Then, the second principle advocates for social and economic equalities where individuals should access equal opportunities irrespective of their backgrounds. While societies struggle to achieve equality in justice, the article “Two Principles of Justice” by John Rawls presents hypotheses for promoting fairness that fails to lead to justifiable outcomes (thesis).

II. Example of a Summary Part

Rawls presents two principles of justice when referring to the supposed situation where societies choose standard justice. For example, the first standard focuses on equal freedom to all individuals irrespective of their social, economic, cultural, political, or religious background (Rawls, 1971). In this case, each person has fundamental rights to the most respected liberties. Moreover, Rawls holds that all members of society must enjoy similar privileges. Then, the second standard promotes social and economic justice across the country (Rawls, 1971). In this case, all citizens should benefit from public opportunities available. Also, all individuals should access equal job prospects without any form of barriers. For instance, two principles intend to allocate extensive liberties to all people equally (Rawls, 1971). Further on, these values provide practical strategies that should govern the allocation of available resources and opportunities. In turn, modern societies should embrace two principles as pillars in sharing social and economic reimbursements. Hence, Rawls presents two principles that allow all people to get equal opportunities irrespective of their backgrounds.

III. Sample of an Analysis/Argument Section

Rawls fails to clarify the level of equality that each community must achieve. Basically, the first principle states that people should access essential liberties without any possible barriers (Rawls, 1971). In turn, the statement disregards the nature of the universal trait of human rights. On the other hand, fundamental human freedoms have conflicting interests, which makes it hard for individuals to access them equally. Moreover, Rawls fails to make justifications that lead to a better understanding of the fundamental rights that societies must promote. Hence, Rawls does not explain the universal rights clearly that people must access.

Rawls makes some assumptions that disregard important factors that lead to inequality in modern society. In particular, the second principle argues that disadvantaged people should have easy access to the most significant benefits (Rawls, 1971). Basically, this argument fails to consider factors that influence leadership in modern communities. In this case, people with higher literacy attainments make more outstanding contributions to the management of various institutions. As a result, they deserve more significant advantages than those who make lesser contributions.

Therefore, differences in commitment levels among multiple members in the community disapprove of Rawls' second principle.

IV. Example of a Conclusion Part

Many civilizations strive to achieve equality in justice processes. However, achieving absolute parity remains an elusive goal. In this case, the article "Two Principles of Justice" by John Rawls presents hypotheses that people can embrace in promoting equality. Moreover, Rawls argues that all individuals must access equal liberty and social and economic opportunities. In turn, this example of writing a critical analysis essay shows that two principles appear vague since such statements may not lead to justifiable outcomes. Hence, scholars should focus on defining specific liberties that promote equality.

Citing a Source for Writing a Critical Analysis Essay in Various Formats

APA 7th edition – A reference entry should follow a sentence case rule, while in-text citations should include the author’s name and publication year. Hence, examples of a reference with an in-text citation are:

- Rawls, J. (1971). Two principles of justice. In *a theory of justice* (pp. 1017–1024). Harvard University Press.
- (Rawls, 1971).

MLA 8th edition – A Works Cited entry should follow a title case rule. Also, in-text citations should entail the author’s surname and page numbers. Hence, examples of a Works Cited entry with an in-text citation are:

- Rawls, John. “Two Principles of Justice.” *A Theory of Justice*, Harvard University Press, 1971, pp. 1017–1024.
- (Rawls 1017).

Harvard – A reference entry should follow a sentence case rule. Moreover, in-text citations should include the author’s surname, publication date, and page numbers. Hence, examples of a reference entry with an in-text citation are:

- Rawls, J 1971, ‘Two principles of justice’, in *a theory of justice*, Harvard University Press, pp. 1017–1024.
- (Rawls 1971, p. 1017).

Chicago/Turabian – A bibliographic entry should follow a capital case rule. Also, in-text citations must appear as footnotes. Hence, examples of a bibliography entry with a footnote are:

- Rawls, John. “Two Principles of Justice.” In *A Theory of Justice*, 1017–1024. Harvard University Press, 1971.
- 1. John Rawls, “Two Principles of Justice,” in *A Theory of Justice* (Harvard University Press, 1971), 1017.