**EXAMPLE OF ITERATIVE SEQUENCING (FROM SYLLABI)**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE RESPONSE PAPERS – DR. MARIOTTI’S “GENDER AND POLITICS”**

**(Assignments increase in difficulty as grading criteria & source documents increase in complexity)**

Each week you will write a short (1-2 page) critical response to the reading(s) for that week. In these responses, you will be practicing the skills needed for writing research papers in the discipline of political science. Writing critical, analytical, and informed essays involves several skills that you will hone in these short assignments, by doing the following three things:

**First**, you will need to set up an interesting and relevant question/puzzle/

problem to explore. In your first sentence, identify an interesting problem, contradiction, oversight, problematic assumption, etc. Your first sentence should end in a question mark.

**Second,** after doing the research (which in this instance involves careful reading and analysis of the text we are studying), you will lay out a thesis statement where you make an argument and an assertion about the question you’ve chosen to explore. These are the two tasks that need to be accomplished in your introductory paragraph.

**Third**, you will then move on to persuade the reader of the validity of your thesis/argument/assertion by analyzing the evidence you have found that corroborates your position. You will do this by referring to the text in an informed way, with reference to the text via quotations, all the while analyzing the evidence you marshal in support of your position. You might also address contrasting viewpoints or evidence that seems to contradict your argument. You do not need to have a concluding paragraph for these short response papers.

These are short papers, but I expect them to be thoughtful and well-written. Please read them over before you hand them in. Revise them. Make sure the language is clear. Cite properly when you refer to the text, using the Chicago Manual of Style method. Even response papers should have a bibliography or works cited section, as well as author and page number citations either in the text itself (parenthetical citations) or in a footnote.

**I will not accept any response paper or essay that does not cite according to CMoS as outlined in Turabian.**