Critical Thinking Assignment
Elements of Scholarship

Determine whether the following examples are primarily summary or opinion or analysis and explain why. There are some black and white cases here; there are also shades of gray. Since some examples contain multiple elements, it is important that you explain why you type each paragraph the way you do.

A) The IWW was a microcosm in American society during their rise, plateau, and descent. The IWW’s rise was part of larger labor rising which was inherent within the society of the United States during the early 20th century. The laissez-faire political climate of the time was designed with industry’s best interest in mind. With a huge influx of immigrants presenting a never ending supply of laborers, management could keep production levels up, while stifling worker’s concerns of fair wage, worker safety, and an 8 hour work day. Workers began to realize change was needed to allow a more equitable living for all.

B) The modern worldview is lacking in one thing, a worldview. We have no idea where we are and science refuses to adequately answer, or even address, the question. Worldview or metaphysic is the one essential thing that holds civilizations together through time, and our lack of one is quickly ripping our civilization apart, at the time when we are supposed to be coming together. We will not likely survive another century without one, yet only a few people are making strides to develop one or to legitimately discover the truth. And those who are doing so are usually derided or routinely ignored, and they’re the lucky ones.

C) An analysis of the stories shows that most involve animals that change into the form of people. The trickster characteristic repeats as Coyote, Raven, and Mink, and involve other anthropomorphized animals such as Moose, Steelhead, and Grizzly. Most of the stories have some social instruction about relationships with others in the community, though the societal message is not told directly but as an undercurrent theme or idea. This is particularly evident in the stories from the Pacific Northwest, though it is apparent in the stories from other geographical areas as well. The subtle use of social messaging reflects the use of the storyteller to communicate socially acceptable behavior in an easy-to-assimilate manner.

D) This book treats the peasant life in three centuries, showing the shift from the lowest form of existence, then some small gains through the introduction of printed material, (tainted with propaganda) and the slow but nowhere near final release from irrational fears, which insured their vulnerability to the upper classes. The author depicts the repression by the growing absolutism by the state that resulted in a form of repression Muchembled described as the “constraint of bodies”; a heavy handed attempt by the church to strike a calculated fear into the people and created a desired “submission of
souls”. In the late 1700’s the seeds of discontent began and as he says, “Fear and force no longer sufficed to keep these millions of men subservient: their consent had to be forged.” (292) Life after the Revolution did not raise the lower classes to a higher standard of living, but it opened up the possibility of that life.

E) The segmentation of groups encompassing the more radical members of the women’s movement made consensus with respect to activism difficult. However, two events were especially influential in inspiring women from many sectors of the movement to cooperate: the 1968 demonstration conducted in Atlantic City in protest of the Miss America Pageant and a sit-in at the Ladies Home Journal corporate office in March 1970. And a third event also proved critical to defining feminism as a political movement. In the early 1970s, reaction to Roe versus Wade stimulated the abortion debate, an important issue in feminist ideology, and abortion rights eventually became a uniting factor between the diverse groups of feminist women.