

Religion and Society, Winter 2010
Critical Reasoning Section
Homework due 2 February

Choose a chapter from Hitchens, Harris or Dawkins, beyond the introduction. Indicate what chapter you are addressing in your header. Answer the following questions about it.

1. How many end-notes are there for that chapter?
2. Of those, how many are **source notes** (that is, provide citations of sources for points or direct quotations in the text), and how many are **explanatory notes** (that is, provide additional detail or argument to material in the text)? Note that some notes can be of both types.
3. Of the source notes, how many cite **facts** (that is, refer the reader to documents that are intended to substantiate a statistic, the occurrence of an event, or the like) and how many cite **views** (that is, someone's position or argument on a topic)?
4. Of the source notes that cite views, how many cite views that **support** the author's views and how many cite views that **oppose** the author's views?
5. Of the source notes, how many appear to be from popular publications? From scholarly sources? From websites?
6. Of the source notes that cite views, does there appear to be a discrepancy between supporting and opposing sources regarding the the types of sources cited (that is, popular articles, scholarly work, and so forth)?
7. As you read through the chapter, are there factual claims that *aren't* cited, yet should be? (Facts that are "common knowledge" don't need to be cited; yet "common knowledge" is a vague category.) If there are, choose one such fact. Say what weight the author's argument places on this fact – if it should turn out not to be true, then how would that weaken the author's case?