

SUMMARY/RESPONSE PROMPT

READING ANNOTATED & OUTLINED	10 points	DUE Tuesday, Sept. 23
SUMMARY DRAFT	15 points	DUE Thursday, Sept. 25
RESPONSE DRAFT	25 points	DUE Thursday, Oct. 02
SUMMARY/RESPONSE ROUGH DRAFT	25 points	DUE Thursday, Oct. 09
SUMMARY/RESPONSE FINAL DRAFT	50 points	DUE Tuesday, Oct. 16

WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

Throughout your academic career and even in your everyday life, you will often be asked to respond to arguments you see in textbooks, in professional articles, in political debates, and even in advertisements or on TV programs. What we believe, how we vote, and even how we spend our money all are, in one way or another, a response to the ideas and arguments we encounter on a daily basis. Thus, it's important not only to develop the ability to think, read, and listen critically so that you can fully understand the messages of textbooks, news sources, politicians, and advertisements, but also to learn to explain and defend your own opinions and beliefs in response to those messages. In this course, we will help you work on your critical thinking and analysis skills so that you can adequately comprehend and appropriately respond to written and visual arguments alike, ultimately giving you the tools you need to enter broader academic and social conversation both inside and outside your classes.

Showing that you understand the conversation around you is an important aspect of academic conversation. In this assignment, after summarizing a source you will add your own voice and consider how your experience contributes to your understanding of what you've read. This is an important aspect of academic discourse as you begin to add your own thoughts to the conversation.

WHAT EXACTLY ARE THE GOALS?

In this assignment, you will:

- **demonstrate** your critical reading skills by:
- **summarizing** what a speaker says and then thoroughly
- **reflecting** on the points the author makes.

WHAT IS A SUMMARY/RESPONSE ESSAY?

The Summary:

A summary is a concise paraphrase of all the main ideas in an essay. It cites the author and the title (usually in the first sentence); it contains the essay's thesis and supporting ideas; it may use direct quotation of forceful or concise statements of the author's ideas; it will NOT usually cite the author's examples or supporting details unless they

are central to the main idea. Most summaries present the major points in the order that the author made them and continually refer back to the article being summarized (i.e. "Damon argues that ..." or "Goodman also points out that ..."). The summary should take up no more than one-third the length of the work being summarized.

The Response:

A response is a critique or evaluation of the author's essay. Unlike the summary, it is composed of YOUR opinions in relation to the article being summarized. It examines ideas that you agree or disagree with and identifies the essay's strengths and weaknesses in reasoning and logic, in quality of supporting examples, and in organization and style. A good response is persuasive; therefore, it should cite facts, examples, and personal experience that either refutes or supports the article you're responding to, depending on your stance.

WHO IS THE AUDIENCE/READER?

For this assignment you should imagine your audience to be an **academic audience who has not read the text you are writing about**. Your readers will want to understand the thesis/argument and main ideas as well as what you think about the text. Your readers will need to easily know which ideas are the speakers and which are yours through your author tags and citation.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

You must show a thorough and accurate understanding of your chosen text and use your personal experience and critical thinking skills to explain to what extent you **agree, disagree, reflect on, and/or question** the speaker's points.

- Show your ability to logically connect your ideas to the text, with sufficient development for your reader to fully understand your position.
- This paper must be **double-spaced, typed in size 12, Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins**
- You must use paraphrases, direct quotes, and attribution to show which ideas are not your own. This will follow standard MLA conventions, including the author(s) last name and page number for in-text citations, and a full MLA citation in the Works Cited page.

WHERE DO I START?

Use the following questions to brainstorm ideas for your body/reflection paragraphs.

1. What new ideas has this text given you? Why is this idea insightful to you? How might you apply it?
2. What did you agree with in this text? Have you had experiences that confirm what the author is saying?
3. Where do you disagree with this author? Why do you disagree? What experiences have you had that contradict what the writer says?
4. What points has the writer omitted? (What else could be discussed?) Why do you think the writer omitted them? Why do you think that these ideas should have been addressed?