

Essay 3: Summary/Analysis/Response

The essay for this assignment will include three parts: a summary of the text, your analysis of the text, and finally, your response to the text. Essays should be free of errors in conventions, written in present tense in an academic tone (often more formal than the tone of the text you are writing about), and use MLA format. See syllabus for additional details.

Paragraph 1 (of 3): Summarize

Summarize the text and its key ideas, mainly with your own words. If there is a particularly interesting word or phrase, you may include it, but avoid lengthy quotations and use an in-text citation. Include the author's first and last name—correctly spelled—as well as the title of the text. The last sentence should summarize the central idea of the essay.

Paragraph 2 (of 3): Analyze

Carefully craft a focused paragraph that explores the text and what larger lesson(s) it explores or discusses. Use one direct quotation to support your analysis and include an in-text citation (MLA). Again, avoid lengthy quotations and do not overuse quotations.

Ideas for analysis:

- Context: cultural, political, social, historical, informational, scientific
- Audience: target audience, potential audience, publication audience, generational
- Effect: entertain, inform, persuade, criticize, argue, explain, speculate
- Form: cause/effect, argument, compare/contrast, persuasive
- Tone: humorous, melancholy, upbeat, hopeful, wise, informative, pensive, sarcastic

Paragraph 3 (of 3): Respond / React

Give a personal response to the reading. What ideas do you find interesting? Why? (Even if you don't like the article, you should still be able to find something interesting about it.) Do you agree with the "message" or central idea? This is the only paragraph where you should use the first-person "I."

