

How to write a reflective reaction paper

A reaction paper is a reflection on an issue, reading, speaker, discussion, or any other stimulus. How do you do this? If you are unfamiliar with this type of writing these prompts may help you.

Consider the issue about which you will write, how do you *feel*? Focus on feeling, an emotion that this issue brings up for you. What are the possible emotions? Any feeling is legitimate. Curiosity, anxiety, interest, fear, anger, confusion, boredom, disinterest, resentment, shame, any feeling that was evoked by the speaker, reading, discussion are all possible feelings, they are not the only feelings.

When you have identified your emotion try to locate the source or cause of it. Why do you think you have this feeling about the issue? You may not be able to identify the source but give it a try.

On a cognitive level, what do you *think* and *know* about the issue? This is less emotion and more intellectual. So for this question tune it to your intellect, not emotion. What do you believe, perceive, understand, remember, and connect to? What experiences have you had that are relevant? What skills do you have that relate? What information do you have that you think connect to this issue? What things do you not understand clearly? Do you have historical perspectives that are associated? Are your current perspectives different from the ones you held previously? Did you have misconceptions about this issue previously, if so, what were they?

How important do you perceive this issue to be, why and to whom? Is it important personally or generally, nationally or regionally?

What additional information would you like to have? You should do some further research and read additional sources on your topic for your reflection if you want to incorporate other perspectives.

When you put the answers to those questions and others of a similar nature together in a coherent fluid paper, you have a reaction paper that is reflective.