

RESPONSE WRITING

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION

Response writing is a shorter piece of writing that engages with a reading or readings, text, or image by responding to the ideas and arguments that the authors have made. In this class, you will write six (6) responses over the course of the semester. They will correspond with the readings of the day/week.

GUIDELINES

- Between 350 words (approximately 1 page)
- Includes well written and organized paragraphs
- Expresses clear main idea and development
- Does not need formal introduction and thesis
- Submitted as Word file or PDF
- Double-spaced

RESPONDING TO THE AUTHOR

Good writing moves beyond simply sharing your own opinions and instead enters into a conversation. As such, much academic writing is in response to what others have said. This involves both the acknowledgement of the ongoing conversation and then building upon that conversation. As you draft your response, consider the following questions:

Their ideas/thoughts/arguments

- What are the main arguments made in the reading? Do you generally agree or disagree with the author's main thesis?
- Within the reading, was there any supporting evidence that you found especially compelling? Or especially problematic?
- Within the reading, was there any new information or surprising information?

Your response/thoughts/arguments

- How do the ideas presented in the reading reflect or represent your own experiences?
- Have any of the ideas presented changed your prevailing perspective on the topic?
- How can the information or ideas you have read be applied to your own approach to the topic?

ORGANIZING YOUR RESPONSE

While response writing can vary in length, responses for this class are shorter than full length essays. They can be two to three paragraphs and comprise primarily of two main parts:

- 1) A summary of the main idea or specific ideas from the reading to which you wish to respond
- 2) A response that articulates your thoughts, perspectives, and extensions of the conversation

These parts do not necessarily have to be written in two separate paragraphs. Think carefully on the idea or ideas that you are trying to present. Some responses do require a more robust summary before moving forward your own thoughts. Other responses can successfully engage in a *they say, I say* and *they say, I say* series of cyclical moves.