

Instructions for Summary/Response Essay

Assignment Description

For this essay, you will both summarize and respond to an article you have read—either one provided to you by your instructor or one that you select for a list of options. (See eCampus for details and a list of readings). In a summary/response essay, you first summarize the central claim of an article and then respond to those by agreeing, disagreeing, or modifying the claim (i.e., agreeing with some but not all of the claim or supporting ideas).

Steps to take:

1. Actively read the selected or provided article.

Suggestions for active reading:

- Take note of the author, the title, the date, and the place of publication.
- Note words you don't know and look up their definitions.
- Annotate the text and/or take notes on key points, main ideas, and supporting claims.
- Take note of important supporting evidence, facts, stats, data, etc.
- Pose questions about the reading to reflect on for better understanding.

2. Write Your Summary/Response Essay

As you draft your essay, be sure it contains all of these elements:

1. An **introduction**. This first paragraph should clearly identify the author and article you're summarizing and provide context and give a general overview of what the source is about. It may include a bit of brief summary to show what the main point of the article is. It should include a thesis statement that presents your response to the article.
2. A **summary** of the source (one or two paragraphs). Be sure to accurately represent the main ideas, supporting claims, and evidence from the source.
3. Your **response** to the source (one or two paragraphs). Be sure to include a clear statement of agreement, disagreement, or modification. You should also include evidence from the article, relevant examples, your own reasoning, and your own experiences to support your ideas. Remember that the purpose of a response paper is to add your own voice to the mix, to join the conversation. Take this opportunity to develop your own voice.
4. A **conclusion**. This paragraph should reinforce the ideas you stated in the essay.

Minimum Requirements

- 1000-1250 words (approx. 3-4 pages)
- An interesting and informative title
- The four elements listed above
- MLA format with in-text citations and a works cited entry