

Writing Assignment #1: Response Essay

The response essay asks you to examine a source or a group of sources and discuss your reactions to it. The essay will incorporate source material summary into its discussion but will also integrate your reactions to the source material.

In this essay, you will write a personal response to one of the following essays.

- Kiefer, K. (2007). Chapter 8: Do students lose more than they gain in online writing classes? In Brave New Classrooms (pp. 141-151). Peter Lang Publishing, Inc.
- Postman, N. (1995). The end of education: Redefining the value of school. New York: Alfred A.Knopf.

Please make sure you have watched the video from Week 2 of our class, *Response Essay WRTG 291 video*.

Organizing and Formatting the Response Essay:

You can find suggestions for organizing response essays at the following websites:

- Cahill, Kathleen. (1999). Writing a Reaction or Response Essay. LEO: Literacy Education Online. <http://leo.stcloudstate.edu/acadwrite/reaction.html>
- Writing@CSU. (2012). Writing Effective Summary and Response Essays. Colorado State University, 1993-2012. <http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/teaching/rst/pop5i.cfm>
- Alberdeston, J. (2009). Guidelines for Effective Response Essays. <http://upraenglishhonors.blogspot.com/2009/09/guidelines-for-effective-response.html>

Samples and further explanations of response essays are available at the following websites:

- McGee, Chris. (2012). Sample Response Essays. Longwood University, Virginia. <http://www.longwood.edu/staff/mcgeecw/sampleresponsepapers.htm>
- Avila, Melissa Marie. (2012). Trapped in the Middle: A Close Reading and Response to Gloria Anzaldua's The Homeland. Tammi Bob's Faculty Page. College of Du Page. http://www.cod.edu/people/faculty/bobtam/website/sample_personal_response_essay.htm

In addition, the paper should be formatted according to APA style (e.g., you should include a running head with page numbers, have appropriate margins, etc. in accordance with the video tutorial you observed in class, [How to format your paper according to APA style.](#))

Additional resources in our class:

In our class, in the e-reserves section, we have a chapter from the book by Graff, G. and Birkenstein, C, *They Say / I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing with Readings*. The chapter mentions various techniques to apply in stating what an author said and your response to the author. It is recommended that you read through that chapter so that you might apply these techniques to this essay.

Submitting the assignment:

Please post a rough draft of your response essay as your instructor directs you by the due date your instructor provides. After receiving feedback on your response essay, please use the comments from your instructor to help you to assess your own rough draft. Please post your final draft of the Response Essay as your instructor directs you.

Length:

The final draft should be approximately 700-900 words long. It should follow standard APA guidelines in citing the sources and should include a “References” page at the end of the essay to list the sources. In addition, as noted above, it should be formatted according to APA guidelines with a running head, appropriate margins, etc.