

Response Guide

Your response papers will be more formal versions of three different journal entries you have already written. This will give you an opportunity to work on revising some part of your writing.

Step 1: Choose a journal entry you have already written.

Step 2: Type it up and build upon it. If you originally summarized the plot of the story assigned, you should take one element of the plot and write your thoughts on that particular element.

Step 3: Write about one double-spaced page. Include quotes from the text to support your arguments.

Step 4: Proofread it! The response should be as well-written as possible, free from errors of spelling and grammar, and should be written in an academic voice.

Step 5: Post it to the Blackboard discussion board set up for that week's entries.

The Dos and Don'ts of Response Papers:

DO NOT: Only summarize plot

DO: Analyze the thematic and symbolic significance of events in the story

DO NOT: Simply say you didn't like a character.

DO: Explain *how* a character was unlikable, how that affects the reading experience, and *why* that may or may not have been the author's intent

DO NOT: Generalize and provide vague reasons behind your Text Analysis

DO: Use specific examples from the text (including quotes, if significant).

DO: Think deeply, and look closely into the work. Notice things that a casual reader would not.

DO NOT: Simply repeat ideas mentioned in class by the instructor or by other students.

DO: Build off ideas mentioned in class, adding your own thoughts and insights to the discussion.