

Essay 2: Summary/Response

WRI 121: English Composition

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Final Draft Due: 10/9?

Word Count: 1000-1250 words

Points:

Additional Sources: Two additional credible (though not necessarily academic) outside sources

Overview of Assignment

In this assignment, you will summarize an author's argument and respond to it. In other words, you will make two arguments in this essay: first, you'll argue for your interpretation of an author's argument, and second, you'll argue in response to that author's argument by defending, refuting, or qualifying the author's view. To support and inform your response, you will need to find and incorporate **two outside sources**, which will require good information literacy and good source integration strategies.

Questions you should consider when writing this paper include the following: What is the gist of the author's argument? What is the author's main claim and reasoning for that claim? What is the main issue the author raises? What do you find persuasive, unpersuasive, or both about the author's argument? Why--that is, based on what evidence/reasoning--do you find it persuasive, unpersuasive, or both? Your thesis--and thus your essay--will follow a [they say/I say format](#).

Your summary and response should be distinct from each other (different paragraphs) but all part of one essay.

Purpose of Assignment: Skills Practiced and Knowledge Gained

The major goals of this assignment are for you to do the following:

- Understand and explain an author's argument without evaluation or response.
- Construct a focused response to an author's argument in which you clearly distinguish between the author's view and your own response to that view.
- Integrate sources effectively by attributing and incorporating textual evidence.
- Demonstrate good information literacy by identifying two appropriate and credible "outside" sources into your response.
- Organize your summary and response into a focused essay with an introduction, body, and conclusion.

Required Elements for Success

To be successful, your Summary/Response essay should contain the following elements:

Introduction

- Name of author and text being summarized and responded to.
- Thesis stating your interpretation of the gist of the author's argument and your response to that argument ("they say/I say").
- Preview of supporting claims in the order they'll be discussed.

Body

- Paragraphs structured around topic sentences (minor claims) that support the thesis.
- Textual evidence appropriately attributed, integrated, and explained ("quote sandwich").
- Article's argument fully explained (summary) before response.
- Argued response to article is distinct from (and begins after) summary.
- Logical relationships between ideas made explicit with appropriate logical (not chronological) connecting language.
- Keywords from original text used precisely.
- Two outside sources integrated into the argued response

Conclusion

- Restates gist of argument and reflects content of body (they say/I say)

Style and Conventions

- Summary should contain no evaluation or response (use analytic tone).
- Response should thoughtfully express opinions about original argument.
- Sentences should follow standard rules of English grammar and spelling.
- Cover page, manuscript, and references should be formatted according to APA guidelines.