

Essay 1: Summary and Response Essay

Length: 2 ½ - 3 full pages

Rough Draft Due: September 12th

Follow MLA Conventions*

Final Draft Due: September 15th

*double-spaced with one-inch margins, in Times New Roman, 12 font. See sample paper on Canvas.

You will be responding to one of the following essays:

“Why We Crave Horror Movies”, by Stephen King

“Why People Don’t Help in a Crisis,” by John M. Darley and Bibb Latané

Your assignment is to write a response to *one* of the essays we read in this unit. In your essay, you should assume that your reader is familiar with the source essay’s general topic but unfamiliar with its specific details. Your essay will include two major sections: a summary and a response. Your purpose in this essay is two-fold: (1) to convince your audience that you clearly understand one of the essays listed above and (2) to demonstrate that you can respond intelligently and persuasively to it.

Summary:

The summary section of your essay (6-8 sentences) should clearly and objectively present the main ideas, as well as the important sub-points, of the essay you have chosen to write about. The summary should be written almost entirely in *your* words; only use particularly important quotations when they are necessary to your summary.

Response:

The response section of your essay (400-600 words) should include an original idea as its main thesis. While the summary is objective, the response is subjective and presents your ideas on the subject. Develop your two-part thesis into well-developed paragraphs and explain your position clearly and logically.

Your thesis (1-2 sentences) should be focused and have two main parts. Here are the three options:

- (1) **Agree** *and* add something new or address something more fully;
- (2) **Agree** for the most part, *but disagree* with a certain main point, or
- (3) **Disagree** with particular words, ideas, or assertions in the essay, *and* explain what you think instead.

***In all cases, your thesis (and your essay) must clearly demonstrate that you are contributing original ideas. **It is not sufficient to simply say that you agree**—you must explain *why* you agree/ disagree by adding information that has not been stated in the essay to which you are responding.

Basic Outline for the Paper:

Student Name

Ms. Kelm

ENG 1302

15 September 2014

Interesting Title that Prepares Reader for What You Discuss in Your Essay

Introduction Paragraph (6-8 sentences)

- Start with your summary of the article. Include the name of the author and the essay’s title at the beginning.
- Transition to your thesis at the end of the paragraph.

Body Paragraphs

- Begin each body paragraph with a focused topic sentence and then provide clear and specific support to develop your point by using specific quotations from the text, examples, your own knowledge, etc.
- Quotations from the text should follow MLA formatting guidelines (cite the author’s last name and the page number).

Conclusion Paragraph (4-6 sentences)

- Summarize your response from a new angle and reemphasize your thesis.

- Answer the question: “So what?”