

Essay II: Summary/Response Essay Assignment

300 points

Hint: Keep this assignment sheet visible while working on your essay.

Overview	<p>The Summary/Response essay is designed to help you with the beginning process of research. In doing research, it is vital to learn how to read critically as well as to learn how to summarize and respond to a document. This may sound easy, but many times students struggle with these tasks. This essay also is a starting point for teaching citations and how to avoid plagiarism.</p> <p>You may only* choose from essays in chapter 10 or chapter 60</p> <p>*Should you choose a different text for your assignment, you must get approval from me before submitting the outline.</p>
Focus	<p>You must say whether or not you agree or disagree with the author's main point (yes, say "I agree..." or "I disagree..."). Using "I" is okay in this context. The essay map should identify the three reasons WHY you agree or disagree OR the three points you agree or disagree with. The body paragraphs, then, follow this organization and go into depth for each of those three points. For support, explain what you agree or disagree with and why. Each body paragraph should include the author's points with your response. This means that while each body paragraph will focus on your opinion, it will not ignore the points of the original article. This also means that you are not creating a new argument essay on the same topic. You are responding to the points...think of this as a conversation with the author.</p>
Format	<p>4 pages minimum + Works Cited page</p> <p>Follow proper MLA document formatting as well as MLA citation rules.</p>
Organization	<p>The essay must first begin with a summary in the first paragraph and follow all the components of an effective summary (see pp. 470-471 in the textbook). The summary and response must be separated by a clear agree/disagree thesis statement, and the response must contain the components of an effective response essay. Hint: Paragraph 1 is the summary. Paragraphs 2-4 are your response. Paragraph 5 is the conclusion.</p>
Development	<p>The essay must follow the conventions of a college-level essay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a clear & supportable thesis statement with an essay map: "I agree with ...because..." • supporting topic sentences for each point. • supporting evidence from your personal life, the text, or another source, and follow logical conclusions

	The reading & course resources explain what constitutes valid evidence and how to cite the text.
Grammar & Style	<p>This essay must adhere to the rules of Formal Standard American English:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No contractions; No abbreviations; No second person; No commands; <p>Limited 1st person point of view. (It is acceptable to say “I agree” or “I disagree” in your thesis and topic sentences.)</p> <p>Proper punctuation, verb use, and sentence structure are expected. The Writing Center or Smarthinking is encouraged as part of the revising process.</p>
Research	<p>The student sample essay uses citations correctly. Follow those patterns for the in-text citations AND the Works Cited page. The only source needed for this assignment is the essay in the textbook. However, you may use another source if so desired. Please keep these points in mind:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles must be quoted, paraphrased, summarized, and properly cited in all cases. • <i>Wikipedia</i>, other encyclopedia sites, and personal websites are never valid websites for academic research. • Use proper citation techniques for in-text citations & a Works Cited page. • Incorporate research within the essay: introduce the source (with credentials) and explain the borrowed information and the relationship between the thesis and the data. • Hyperlinks are <u>unacceptable</u> anywhere in the essay (including the Works Cited page). • Web addresses are <u>unacceptable</u> within the essay—use proper title formatting. • I am particularly harsh on citation and Works Cited formatting for this essay, so spend considerable amount of time getting the citations correct.

Essay 2 Rubric	Off-task (0%)	Weak (60%)	Average (70%)	Strong (80%)
Format (10%) The essay must follow MLA formatting standards.	The essay does not follow MLA formatting.	There are numerous problems with MLA formatting	There are 2-3 problems with MLA formatting.	There are no problems with the formatting.
Focus/Unity (20%) The essay needs to have a clear and concise introduction, thesis statement, essay map, and topic sentences that truly support each other. The thesis should be a solid opinion and not an announcement, and the essay map should answer “why” in response to the thesis. The topic sentences should match the essay map. The paragraph should stay focused and support the topic sentence. In addition, the essay must follow the assignment.	A clear agree and/or disagree thesis is not apparent and the essay is off topic and loses focus.	The thesis is weak and the essay loses focus in places throughout the essay.	An agree/disagree thesis is evident, but focus may be fuzzy or not related clearly to the purpose.	The essay has a clear main idea that is related to the prompt. The ideas are logically connected.
Development (30%) Sufficient examples and quotes are necessary to clearly support the thesis (i.e. explain why the writer agrees and/or disagrees). Supporting examples, quotations, the thesis, and the original author's main points must connect to each other.	The development is severely lacking or unapparent. The essay may also not follow instructions.	The supporting example, details, and data are thin or missing altogether or not relevant to the main idea.	The ideas are clear. Supporting examples, details, and data are thin in spots and/or not clearly relevant to the main idea.	Supporting details are ample and clearly connect to the main idea. Connections between examples and the main idea are clear.
Organization (20%) The introduction needs to capture the reader's interest, and the writing must develop clearly, smoothly, and logically from the main point. Understanding of the readers' expectations is demonstrated. Individual paragraphs must have clear focus, unity, and coherence. A clear distinction between the summary and response is necessary.	The organization is confusing and the essay is difficult to understand. The essay may also not follow instructions.	The introduction sets up the wrong expectations. The writing makes several unconnected main points. The coherence is rough, and individual paragraphs lack basic focus, unity, and coherence.	The introduction sets the main idea, and the writing develops from the main point. The coherence or smoothness of ideas have some rough spots. Individual paragraphs usually have basic focus, unity, and coherence.	The introduction captures the reader's interest and the writing develops from the main point. Coherence and flow is evident. Transitional words and phrases are used. Individual paragraphs have clear focus, unity, and coherence.

Style (10%) The writing must follow the conventions of written English (correct word usage, appropriate voice and tone, sentence variety, and clear, concise sentences).The writing must follow Formal Standard English (with the exception of first person and contractions)and demonstrate a balance of voice, subject, purpose, genre, cultural context, and a sense of audience.	There are several errors that make the sentence extremely difficult to understand. The essay could be a draft and shows little or no shaping, drafting, or revising.	The sentences are confusing to intended audience. The punctuation, usage, spelling, and mechanics have distracting errors that obscure meaning.	The sentences are clear and easily read by intended audience but the writing lacks voice. The punctuation, usage, spelling, and mechanics have some distracting errors, but the meaning is still clear for the most part.	The sentences are confusing to intended audience. The punctuation, usage, spelling, and mechanics have some distracting errors, but the meaning is still clear for the most part.
Research (10%) The in-text citations and Works Cited page must follow MLA formatting and style. The quotations and ideas of the original piece must be introduced and presented in context of the student's original ideas. Floating quotes (without information) must be avoided.	The essay is plagiarized or does not contain any research.	The research is not apparent or does not relate to the thesis or main supporting points. The research may also lack context and/or introductions.	The research minimally supports the main idea and the in-text citations and/or Works Cited page has several errors. There are some floating quotes, but most quotes are supported within the context of the original essay.	The in-text citations and Works Cited page must follow MLA formatting and style. The quotations and ideas of the original piece must be introduced and presented in context of the student's original ideas. Floating quotes (without information) must be avoided.