

Guidelines for a Successful Reading Response

Here are the requirements, guidelines and grading rubric for your reading responses. Please also refer to the Purdue website for help regarding structure, content and format of your paper: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu>

**Length.** Each reading response should be between 2-4 pages (Times New Roman #12, double spaced). It should have a solid argument (thesis statement), analysis, and conclusion, all of which reflect your analysis and critical thinking.

**Structure.** Your paper should be structured in the following way (the headings are for the guidelines and should not be written into your paper):

- **Title:** make it catchy and relevant (make sure it includes key words of topic)!
- **Introduction:** What is your topic all about? Go straight to your topic without generalizations. Introduce your argument/thesis statement (topic, plus your own opinion on the topic). What will you demonstrate in your paper? What is its focus? Be clear, assertive and specific.
- **Underline your thesis:** Is it an idea rather than a fact? Can the thesis be demonstrated by the text on which your essay focuses? (If you have a difficult time finding your thesis, you may not have one.
- **Development/Illustration/Substantiation:** More specific background information (characters, themes, terminology, etc.), critical discussion of sources and ideas, (i.e. comparisons, contrasts, arguments and counter arguments demonstrating your own synthesizing thoughts); proper citations and clear references to sources. Here is where you illustrate your argument with examples.
- **Substantiation/Explanation:** Analysis of how your examples work, or why they are relevant .
- **Conclusion:** What is the significance of your findings? What further implications might they have?

**Formatting and Style.** Follow the MLA formatting guidelines (or another style as long as it is consistent and you let me know which one). Proofread carefully, avoid spelling errors and make sure that the sentences are complete, clear and well connected.

**Rating Scale.** Your response will be graded with a total possible points of :100