

Responding to the On-Line Essay

Directions: Your essay must be typed, Times New Roman, size 12 font, double spaced, using appropriate indentation, margins and Standard English. Your grade will be determined using the following guidelines (accuracy 33%, neatness 33% and completeness 34%.)

I. Introduce the subject, scope, and type of essay that you read..

Identify the on-line essay by **author, title, and publishing information.**

Specify the **type** of essay (for example, fiction, nonfiction, biography, autobiography). Help your readers to review with perspective.

Discuss the essay's **theme, tone(s) / overall mood.**

Sometimes you will need to include **background** to enable reader(s) to place the essay into a specific context. For example, you might want to describe the general problem the essay addresses or earlier work the author or others have done.

II. Summarize the content.

Provide a detailed overview, including paraphrases and quotations, of the essay's thesis and primary supporting points

III. Provide your reactions to the essay.

Describe the essay: Is it interesting, memorable, entertaining, and / or instructive? WHY OR WHY NOT!??

**** **What are the major rhetorical strategies at play in the work?** Give textual support for your observations. ****
***** **THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART!!!** *****

Respond to the author's opinions / characters' actions: What do you agree with? And why? What do you disagree with? And why? Relate to several specific incidents.

Explore issues the essay raises: What possibilities does the essay suggest? Explain. What matters does the essay leave out? Explain.

Relate your argument to other essays or authors: Support your argument for or against the author's opinions / characters' actions by bringing in prior experiences / knowledge.

Relate the essay to larger issues: How did the essay affect you? How have your opinions about the topic changed?

IV. Conclude by summarizing your ideas

Close with a direct comment on the essay, and tie together issues raised in your review. Briefly restate your main points and your thesis statement. If you like, you can offer advice for potential readers.