

Response Assignments

In response papers, writers are expected to describe their personal response to a reading assignment and explain why they had this reaction. A response paper is **not** meant to provide a review or a rating of the reading.

Be selective in what you choose because if you choose too many reactions to the literature provided, you will be unable to fully explain why you have that reaction. As a result, choose **1** significant thought you had while reading and explore that thought in depth. Response papers are usually brief and informal and do not necessarily follow the thesis/support model in most other writing assignments. Furthermore, since response papers are about a person's personal response, most teachers permit the writer to use the first-person pronoun I.

While a response paper is like a personal essay - where the student reflects on their own life and thoughts - the student must ensure that they keep the literature as the main focus.

Since there are no concrete rules about response papers, students must carefully read their instructor's directions and follow them closely.

Note: While this is an excellent source of reference, students are encouraged to check their syllabus and/or rubric to ensure they include all the requirements of an assignment.