

Some Tips for Writing Your Reading Response

Read the Text

Read the text fully and carefully. Take your time and think about how the text is making you feel and why. Take notes if you tend to forget things, sticky notes will help with this. Bookmark important passages that you think you might use when you write your response, or write down page numbers of key sections.

Contemplate what you have read

Before you begin writing, it is helpful to take some time to think about the section of text as a whole, and formulate an overall impression. Did you love it? Did you hate it? Is there something about it that really bothered you, or really spoke to you? Completing some or all of these sample statements can help you with this process. I think that...I feel that...I see that... I have learned that...

Write the introduction (Say what you are going to say)

Make sure that the introduction clearly specifies the name of both the text and the author. It should also include some description of the text, and a general idea of what it is about. The introduction should end with your purpose/argument clear to the reader.

Write the body paragraph (Say it)

In the body, you should write paragraphs that discuss details of the text and some response that you have in depth. Multiple question prompts can be combined and addressed in a single paragraph, or reordered in a way that flows well and makes sense to you.

These paragraphs usually include more information about the text, the plotline, characters, etc., and then use the rest of the paragraph to provide an analysis of how you felt about the text.

Remember to explain how, why, and what!

As you write your response, think about explaining not just how you felt about the text, but why it made you feel a certain way. Don't just state that the text taught you a lot, give an example of something you actually learned. For example, I learned that sometimes we don't realize how our actions affect others.

- Remember that a reading response is meant to be personal, so it's okay to incorporate personal anecdotes and opinions into your analysis.

Example: "Reading about Roz forcing herself to be super-friendly to the island animals reminded me of when I was nervous about making friends at camp. I tried to smile a lot and talk with other campers even though I was nervous and shy."

Conclusion paragraph (Say what you said)

Write the conclusion. This should be one paragraph that summarizes your thoughts/arguments so far, and brings the reader back to your main point stated in your introduction. A great way to think of your conclusion is that it's one last chance to explain to your reader how you see all of your points fitting together.

Proofread, proofread, proofread!!

Make sure and give your paper a thorough onceover, looking for typos, grammatical errors, and things that don't quite make sense. Sometimes it's hard to see our own mistakes, so it can really help to exchange papers with a friend, and proofread each other's work.