

READER RESPONSE PROMPT

Definition

A reader response asks the reader, you, to examine, explain, and defend his/her personal reaction to a reading.

Purpose

As a developing scholar, you have the right and duty to stand in judgment on any text you might encounter.

Instructions

You will be asked to explore why you like or dislike the reading, explain whether you agree or disagree with the author's claims, the intended audience, evidence, rhetoric, or argument. You are also asked to identify the author's purpose for writing the text. In short, you are being asked to respond to the readings by critiquing the information.

Although there is no right or wrong answer to a reader response, it is important that you demonstrate an understanding of the reading and clearly explain and support your reactions to the information.

Tips

Be sure to mention the title of the work to which you are responding: the author, the purpose, the audience, and main thesis of the text, using academic language and MLA format. Be sure to use your handbook and textbook to understand MLA formatting and MLA documentation.

Think of about the following questions to help you formulate your thoughts:

1. What does the text have to do with you, personally, and with your life (past, present or future)? It is not acceptable to write that the text has NOTHING to do with you, since just about everything humans can write has to do in some way with every other human.
2. How much does the text agree or clash with your view of the world, and what you consider right and wrong?
3. How did you learn, and how much were your views and opinions challenged or changed by this text, if at all? Did the text communicate with you? Why or why not? Give examples of how your views might have changed or been strengthened (or perhaps, of why the text failed to convince you, the way it is).
4. How well does it address things that you, personally, care about and consider important to the world? How does it address things that are important to your family, your community, your ethnic group, to people of your economic or social class or background? If not, who does or did the text serve? Did it pass the "So What?" test.
5. What is your overall reaction to the text? Would you read something else like this, or by this author, in the future or not? Why or why not? To whom would you recommend this text?

Format

- MLA format
- Times New Roman, 12 point font
- 2-3 pages in length