

Reading responses

ENG 515, Fall 2016, Purdue University, Bradley Dilger ~ dtext.org/f16/515

Write short (~300 word) responses to the readings which summarize critical points, articulate any questions you have, reflect on their usefulness and significance, make connections to other readings and/or activities, and generally enrich our discussions.

These responses must show engagement with the assigned readings. Pointing out relevant passages is highly recommended. Use simple abbreviations and citations (e.g. “SC 25” or “CMOS 312” or “Einsohn 54”). No Works Cited needed.

Details are critical. Engage specifics. Sampling (dealing with a specific point which represents the whole) works as well as coverage (writing about the whole selection).

While summary of the factual information presented can be a part of your response, **focus on methods**—how do the texts help you as a developing editor? How do the readings connect to other things we’ve read? How might they help approach our assignments? Do you think some of the ideas presented are erroneous—and if so, why? What parts of the material do you find useful or interesting—and why?

Well-articulated questions are also quite appropriate. If you think you’ve found a contradiction in the readings, or something that bears further study, use your response to frame the question. But if you want to ask specific questions about your assignments, send those by email—I don’t want to miss those.

It’s perfectly acceptable to **express your reactions to the texts**—positive, negative, or indifferent—as long as your reactions aren’t vague or very hastily stated.

Responses need not be formal. Feel free to write in the first person.

Methods

Create a Google Doc called “Lastname 515 Reading Responses” (with the appropriate substitution). Share it with me (cbdilger@gmail.com). If you need help setting up the Google Doc, just ask me or one of the many nerds in the course.

Type all of your responses in this one document, in reverse chronological order, separated by headers. You don’t need to make a new document each week — I’ll simply open the existing one from my bookmarks. See the course web site for an example.

Evaluation

Responses will be evaluated Monday of each week. No need to email me each week; I’ll just open up your single Google Doc and have a look. With that in mind, finish your response Sunday night each week — or at the latest before early Monday morning.

Responses will be assigned up to 10 points. Frankly, evaluation won’t be that rigorous; I will be moving quickly. I won’t reply in depth unless you ask specifically via email or by making a comment on the document which invites attention.

You should write at least five responses between weeks 2–7, and five between 9–14. If you write more than that, you can keep any extra points (though I won’t review more than one response per week).

Updated 2016-08-24