

Reader Response Journal Guidelines

A reader response journal is a form of personal writing that demonstrates your reaction to a text. It must meet these minimum requirements:

- minimum of one page in length
- discusses and analyzes (not summarizes) events from the entire 1/4 of the book you are reporting on
- demonstrates critical thinking about your text
- written in cohesive paragraphs with clear topic sentences

Different students will approach the reader response journal in different ways. **I am most concerned that you prove you are reading and that you are thinking critically about your reading.**

Above all, *please make sure that your reader response is more than a summary*

Here are ideas for what you could include in your reader response journal:

- What events/ideas have most intrigued you so far in the book?
- Which people from the book do you most connect with and why?
- What do you think of this writer's style?
- What emotions did you feel as you read this portion of the book? Why do you think this book stirred up those emotions?
- What has been the most challenging part of the book so far?
- Would you recommend this book to others? Why or why not? (best to use this topic late)
- How has this book changed your thinking about this topic?

You might also use these sentence starters to help you:

- I was surprised when...
- I was confused when...
- It's unusual that...
- I'd like to know more about...
- The author really caught my attention when...
- If I had been there when that happened I would have...
- I wish...
- I hope...
- I predict...
- I expect...
- I hated when...because
- I loved when... because