

Tips for Writing Your 5 Reading Responses

What goes in a reading response?

- A reading response is a blend of summary and critique
 - In the first paragraph, you should, in your own words, summarize the main argument of all of the reading(s) for the entire week.
 - In the second paragraph, you should critically evaluate one or more of the readings for that week.
 - You can do this by critiquing the author's methodology or analysis or by comparing and contrasting across different readings (within or across weeks).
 - Note that in this second paragraph, you may choose to concentrate your critique on a single reading or a subset of readings if you like.
 - Make sure you give equal space to summary and critique.
 - In other words, roughly 50% of the response should be summary; the other 50% should be critique/evaluation.

How should it be formatted?

- The reading responses should be 1 page long.
 - Students may use double, 1.5 or single spacing. We recommend 1.5 or single spacing.
- Reading responses should have 1 inch margins, and use 12 point, Times New Roman font (or its equivalent).

When are they due? And how do I submit them?

- The reading responses for a given week are due on **Monday by 4pm**.
 - Reading responses are due *before* we cover the material in class
 - For example, the reading response for week 2 should be based on the readings for week 2, and is due at the beginning of week 2 before we meet for class (i.e. January 22, by 4pm).
- Submit all reading responses to the class bCourses page.
- Note that there are no reading responses for weeks 1, 8, or 11.

How will they be graded?

- Reading responses will be graded using a check system. In the comments section, you will see either a "check," a "check minus," or a "check plus."
 - A check plus corresponds roughly to an A; a check corresponds roughly to a B and a check minus corresponds roughly to a C.
 - In those rare cases where we detect plagiarism or the directions were not followed, students may receive a "0" or no credit.
- Thirty-percent of your final course grade will be based on your average (mean) grade on 5 weekly reading responses.
 - You may, if you want, submit more than 5 weekly reading responses. In that case, the average grade will be calculated using only the 5 highest scores.