

## How to Write a Response Paper

In the first paragraph, please summarize the story/essay/film/whatever that is about to be discussed. Touch on the following points to demonstrate that you understand the text:

- What the text was about.
  - This isn't just what happened, but also what themes or ideas it discusses.
- What you think the author's argument is.
  - Integrate citations of the text itself in order to justify your stance.

Here's a sample introduction:

In his 1997 novel, *The Panda*, author James Jennings tells the story of a panda who is searching for a mate. As the panda wanders through the forest, the reader quickly realizes that the story is simultaneously about deforestation, relationships, and, most importantly, the role of nature in our lives.

In the second paragraph please discuss what you think about the text. If there is a prompt, make sure that you address the prompt with your opinions. This section is purely a response. It is purely personal. You can't be wrong (just less right...) in this section. So take a chance.

Here are some ideas:

- What connections do you make to the rest of the world?
- Do you like it the text?
- Do you dislike it?
- Do you agree?
- Do you disagree?
- Are there particular moments that you react to?
  - This can be positive or negative.
- Where you surprised by anything?

But seriously. Cite the text.