

-How to do a Reader Response Journal Entry-

For the next reading assignment, I will ask you to complete what is called a Reader Response Journal Entry. To do so, you must first prepare your journal for the assignment. With a ruler, draw two lines in the next couple of pages of your journals that the pages look like this.

Quotation	Response	Notes

On the far left third of the page, you are to write down from your assigned reading three quotations that you find, rich, deep, significant, noteworthy. Perhaps you notice symbols or motifs worth talking about. Maybe the way the author characterizes a protagonist or antagonist in the book is really important. Maybe you want to note something going on with the narrative structure of the story. Choosing the quote is really important. If you don't pick rich lines, you'll have little to talk about. Remember also that these lines need to be properly quoted and cited, using the MLA in-text, parenthetical citation format.

Next, provide an in-depth, well thought-out response to the quotation. Analyze the language. Why should we all note this quote? Explain to us what is going on in terms of the denotation and connotation. Hold our hands through your thought process and wow us with a new, compelling perspective on this small sliver of the book.

Finally, the last third of journal space is to be used during reading group discussion. When you come together as a group, you will read aloud your Reader Response journal entries to each other. Group members will react to your quote and response. You are to take notes on the reactions that they offer. The end result is a deep understanding of part of your text and possible fodder for a future essay.

On the reverse side of this handout is a rubric that describes what an excellent versus unacceptable Reader Response Journal Entry looks like.

READER RESPONSE EVALUATION RUBRIC

Excellent (A) responses show

Superior insight from the reader

Clear ties to the text

Clear understanding of literary techniques and the author's style

Variety

Thoroughness

Effective Responses (B) show

Frequent insight from the reader

Clear ties to the text

Understanding of literary techniques and the author's style

Variety

Thoroughness

Acceptable Responses (C) show

Limited insight from the reader

Some ties to the text

Some comment on literary techniques and the author's style

Some variety

Minimum completion of requirement

Unacceptable Responses (D) show

Lack of insight

Superficial ties to the text

Little comment on literary techniques and the author's style

Repetition in response topic

Insufficient completion of requirement