

GSU 1010

Guidelines for Summary-Response Papers

Summary-response is a type of writing that allows you to practice several skills that are important to good writing: summarizing ideas, making connections between external authorities and personal experiences, and expressing your own ideas and opinions. Your summary-response papers this semester will be based on presentations and readings from GSU 1010. **Each paper should contain three balanced paragraphs as outlined below. Each paper should be 1 to 1-1/2 typed pages, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins.**

Your summary-response papers for GSU 1010 should have three parts:

- 1) The first paragraph should be a **summary** of the main ideas expressed by the presenter/author. Your summary does not require much detail, but supporting points and examples that help readers understand the content should be included. Throughout your summary, you should use reminder phrases—words that refer back to the author (e.g., *The author also explained that...*)—to remind readers that you are summarizing another's ideas and words.

USEFUL LANGUAGE

In the article, (include article title), the author asserts that...
(alternative verbs: *states, claims, explains, etc.*)

According to the presenter in (include presentation title and date),...

The author also stated that...

- 2) The second paragraph should explain or describe some **connection** you make between the presenter/author's ideas and your own experience. Alternatively, it may compare or contrast the presenter/author's ideas with those of another presenter/author you are familiar with. This paragraph should provide enough information to explain why you are making this connection.

USEFUL LANGUAGE

This topic reminds me of another article by (author). In this article,...

As I considered the presenter's argument, I recalled an experience in which...

A similar idea about (topic) is expressed by (author) in (article, book, etc.)

- 3) The third paragraph should express your **opinion and evaluation** of the topic and main idea. Alternatively, you might express your opinion and evaluation of the presentation of the topic itself (e.g., the presenter/author's style of presentation, voice quality, vocabulary choice). You should include examples, facts, and experience to defend or support your opinion/evaluation.

USEFUL LANGUAGE

The author's arguments are (persuasive/convincing/inadequate...) because...

I agree/disagree with the presenter's views about (topic) because ...

In my opinion, the assertions in this article are correct/incorrect because...

The author expressed her ideas in a clear academic manner. For example, she began by....