

Response Papers

You are responsible for turning in **three response papers** throughout this semester. The response papers should respond to a text we have already read and discussed on the forums on Blackboard. You should not write more than one response paper on an individual story, play, poem, essay or novel. These papers ask you to make a precise argument using textual analysis in a short amount of space. I will be looking for a balance of claims and evidence along with descriptive language. I want you to answer a question you found important and interesting.

Dates: The following dates are the ones also listed in our schedule as the days from which to choose your **three** response paper assignments. You must not deviate from these dates and if you miss class, you still need to turn in the response paper on time, by midnight of the due date, but not after it without serious penalty to your grade.

Tuesday, April 2nd by midnight to Blackboard
Tuesday, April 30th by midnight to Blackboard
Thursday, May 23rd by midnight to Blackboard

What These Papers Need to Do: Response papers should answer an interpretative question you have considered particularly interesting or difficult to answer. You may use a forum question you have sent in or a question sent in by one of your fellow classmates. You may also use an idea from your own triple-entry notebook ideas and questions. You must be clear with what question you would like to answer in the introduction of your paper.

These papers should range from 2-3 pages, double-spaced, MLA format (or a consistent use of another comparable format), and include a works cited page (this page is not part of the 2-3 pages!) I need a works cited page because I expect you to use quotes and paraphrase to back up your claims about the text.

The key to answering an interpretative question in a short amount of space will be to consider writing more about less; for example, look closely and dig deeper into in on one small aspect of a story and give a lot of support and evidence for how you read it rather than trying to cover the entire narrative and writing only a little about each detail. Write **MORE** about less.

What these Papers Should Not Do: These papers are *not* assigned so you can give me your opinions on whether you liked/disliked a text, felt bad for/ loved a character, or anything that suggests personal emotions rather than your critical analysis of a text. Brainstorming is the time to think about how you feel but the actual papers you turn in should avoid such overtly subjective points. I want your ideas rather than your opinions, your textual evidence rather than empty claims, and interpretative leaps that attempt to discover new ways to read the texts.