

Case Study Response

Tips for success

Responding to a case study involves writing a critical evaluation of a case study that has already been written. It may also be called a case study analysis.

Why write a response to a case study?

A lecturer may ask you to write a *response* to a case study rather than writing a case study yourself in order to introduce you to how they are structured, the language they use, how they apply theory to practice, and how they might be used to solve problems in the real world. Writing a response to a case study will help prepare you to write your own case study later.

How to write a response to a case study

1. Read the case study and note the:

- **Main focus** of the case study (e.g., bullying in a particular school);
- **Main features of the context** in which the case is situated (e.g., the school population, the suburb and city the school is in);
- **Main issues/problems/solutions/recommendations** involved (e.g., the features of the bullying in the school and the actions implemented to mitigate it); and
- **People who are most affected** by these issues/problems/solutions (e.g., students, teachers, parents).

2. **Jot down your own thoughts**, questions and evaluative/critical comments (in a different colour, or in a different area of the page) as you note down the above main points of the case study.

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3. Read and **take notes from the relevant literature** e.g., theoretical texts and other case studies on a similar topic area.
4. **Organise your notes** from the case study and the literature according to the structure suggested by your tutor, the unit guide, or the suggested structure below.
5. **Write your first draft** of your response to the case study analysis. Include in-text and end-text references from the literature.
6. **Edit and proofread** your draft. Repeat steps 1-6 until you have completed the requirements of the task.

How should I structure a response to a case study?

This information may be found in your unit guide. If your tutor or unit guide does not specify a structure, you can use the following structure.

Section	Purpose
Introduction	<p>Introduces briefly the key issues of the case study including the background history, the current context and the main issue/s under analysis.</p> <p>Includes a thesis statement towards the end of the introduction which proposes the main argument that you will develop in the body section.</p>

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Body – Detailed response	<p>Expands on the details of the case study by summarising the main sections which might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The context of the case study (e.g., the physical place, the various people involved). - The issue/problem/process that was under analysis. - The methods used by the case study authors to gather information. - The recommendations that were proposed and implemented. - The successes and other consequences (positive and negative) achieved by the actions. - Conclusions of the case study
Body - Discussion	<p>Evaluates and comments on the different sections of the case study using ideas from the relevant academic literature. There are two ways you can do this.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Immediately after summarising each section OR 2. Keeping all your own evaluations and critical comments together in a separate discussion section <p>The sections that may require critical comments especially, include those relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the data was gathered by the authors; • The recommendations that were proposed; • How the recommendations were implemented; and • How effective the solutions were.
Conclusion	<p>Summarises your responses and comments made in the body section and uses these to support your final comments on the strengths and weaknesses of the case study.</p>
References	<p>Lists the academic and other sources of information that were used to inform this response to the case study.</p> <p>Check the unit guide for details on the referencing style expected (e.g., APA, Chicago etc.)</p>

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