

### Handout 3

#### Reading Response Essay Structure

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| <b>The Essay Title</b>   |
| <b>The Introduction</b>  |
| 1. Credit to the <b>author</b> (the <b>author's name and the title</b> of the source text)<br>2. <b>The paraphrase of the author's main idea</b><br>3. <b>Background information</b> to help readers understand the topic<br>4. <b>A thesis statement</b> that states <b>your response</b> to the main ideas of the article  |
| <b>The Summary Paragraph</b>   |
| 1. A <b>topic sentence</b><br>2. The <b>first key idea</b><br>3. <b>Supporting ideas</b> that illustrate the first idea ( <i>important examples, evidence, a short quotation, and information from the source text</i> )<br>4. The <b>second key idea</b><br>5. <b>Supporting ideas</b> that illustrate the second idea ( <i>important examples, evidence, a short quotation, and information from the source text</i> )<br>6. A brief description of the <b>third key idea</b>  |
| <b>Response Paragraph One</b>  |
| 1. A <b>topic sentence</b> (which <b>ideas/article features</b> you are <b>responding to</b> and <b>your opinions</b> about them)<br>2. The <b>first idea/article feature</b> you are responding to and your <b>viewpoint</b><br>3. An <b>example/examples</b> from <b><u>your own observations or those of other authors</u></b> to illustrate your point<br>4. The <b>second idea/article feature</b> you are responding to and your <b>viewpoint</b><br>5. An <b>example/examples</b> from <b><u>your own observations or those of other authors</u></b> to illustrate your point |
| <b>Response Paragraph Two</b>  |
| 1. A <b>topic sentence</b> (which <b>ideas/article features</b> you are <b>responding to</b> and <b>your opinions</b> about them)<br>2. The <b>first idea/article feature</b> you are responding to and your <b>viewpoint</b><br>3. An <b>example/examples</b> from <b><u>your own observations or those of other authors</u></b> to illustrate your point<br>4. The <b>second idea/article feature</b> you are responding to and your <b>viewpoint</b><br>5. An <b>example/examples</b> from <b><u>your own observations or those of other authors</u></b> to illustrate your point |
| <b>The Conclusion</b>  |
| 1. <b>The restatement of the author's main idea</b><br>2. <b>The restatement of your thesis</b><br>3. <b>A prediction and/or a call to action</b>  |