

## Handout 3

### Reading Response Essay

#### The Introductory Paragraph

In his article "Stop Knocking Curation", Steven Rosenbaum **argues that** content curation is misunderstood and misused, and **asserts that** the *correct* curation is invaluable<sup>1</sup> for helping process information on the Internet. **Content curation is** the collection and organization of information on a topic or theme. One popular example is Pinterest, which allows people to share and collect information on all kinds of topics. **While I agree with** some of the author's points **to an extent**, *I feel that they could have been clearer and included the point of view of the reader who is the user of the content curation.*

#### The Summary Paragraph

Rosenbaum **makes three points** in his article. **The first point is that** the idea of content curation is misunderstood – or misused by people to sell things. He **criticizes** stores that use the term "curation". **According to** Rosenbaum, these stores are not really curating because they are just creating collections of the same things. **This is different from** content curation. Rosenbaum **further states that** content curation **should be** defined as creating "entirely new editorial works by finding, filtering, and contextualizing" information. **He goes on to argue that** this practice is **critical** now as there is so much content on the Internet that is overwhelming. **He includes facts such as** "every day, 50 million photos are uploaded to Facebook, 864,000 hours of video are uploaded to YouTube, and 294 billion emails are sent." **He asserts that** this is too much information to process, and readers need help sorting through it. Content curation provides this help. **Rosenbaum ends by saying that** curation is a new critical role for journalists.

### Response Paragraph One

Rosenbaum's **article contains interesting points, but I found some of his examples and explanations debatable**. He **claims that** the term "curation" is misused and gives an example of a wine store that curates wine. Why cannot a wine store curate wines? **This example made me think of** the museum in my neighborhood. Museums have curators who put together collections of paintings that are thematically related. The curators contextualize them by sharing information on who the artist was, when the artist painted, and so on. That can be done for wine collections, too. Curators could bring together wines related on a theme, maybe because they were all mentioned in a novel, or all taste good with chocolate. They could share information on how the wines were made, or why they are relevant to the theme. **I think** it is possible to curate a wine store. **If Rosenbaum had talked more about** why the wine store was not really curated in his opinion, **it would have made his point clearer**.  
**Reading this part of the article, I felt unconvinced that** the label was being used inappropriately.

### Response Paragraph Two

However, **another part of the argument is Rosenbaum's very clear second point** about the need for content curators, **and I agree with it to an extent**. **The fact and figures about information are indeed compelling**. **Many people can relate to** the feeling of being overwhelmed by the amount of data coming to us on social media and in our email. We simply do not have time, or the patience, to read or look through all this data on our own. Curation might be the type of "filtering" that **Margarita Tartakovsky (2000) mentions** as a strategy for dealing with all of this information in her article **"Overcoming Information Overload"**. **However, Rosenbaum says that** content curation is the job of journalists. **I find that assertion questionable**. **It also important that** readers think for themselves and make sure that the content they see is not just one person's opinion. **For example**, I go on one particular website for home decorating ideas. I see lots of pictures of the same styles over and over. I know that this site is just one point of view, so I go to other sites too, for fresh ideas. **I think that** responsible readers seek out information in addition to the information curated for them so that they can broaden their perspectives. **In this way**, content curation is not just a journalist's job-it is everyone's job.

### Conclusion

**In conclusion, Rosenbaum makes some interesting points about** what curation and why we need it. **However, there are other some weaknesses in his argument** because **some of his examples of "true" curation are less convincing, and he also does not consider** the reader's responsibility. As the amount of information we come across will only increase in the future, **I believe** the process of content curation will become even more necessary. It would be helpful to know how to do this for ourselves so that we, as readers, can know when content curation is done right, or choose to do it for ourselves.

## References

1. Tartakovsky, M. (n.d.). *Overcoming Information Overload*.

<https://psychcentral.com/blog/overcoming-information-overload/>

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Adapted from: Asplin, W., Jacobse, M. F., Kennedy, A. S., & Lambert, J. (2015). *Final Draft Level 4 Student's Book* (1st ed.). Cambridge University Press.