

Reading Response Essay Self-Evaluation Checklist

Introduction Structure and Content			
Element 1	+/-		
<i>Credit to the author (the author's name/authors' names and the title of the source text)</i>			
Quality criteria	Yes	No	
<i>a. Does the paragraph start with a sentence which contains the author's name/authors' names and the article title?</i>			
<i>b. Is the author's surname provided?</i>			
<i>c. Is the article title put in double quotation marks?</i>			
Element 2	+/-		
<i>A paraphrase of the author's/authors' main idea</i>			
Quality criteria	Yes	No	Quality 1-5 (What can be improved?)
<i>a. Have you provided sufficient detail while describing the main idea?</i>			
<i>b. Have you described the main idea in a concise manner?</i>			
<i>c. Have you used a reporting verb/reporting verbs to introduce the author's main idea?</i>			

Element 3	+/-		
Background information to help readers understand the topic			
Quality criteria	Yes	No	Quality 1-5 (What can be improved?)
a. Have you provided sufficient detail while providing <u>background information</u> or <u>expanding on the main idea</u> ?			
b. Have you provided this information in a concise manner ?			
Element 4	+/-		
A thesis statement that states the student's response to the main ideas of the article			
Quality criteria	Yes	No	Quality 1-5 (What can be improved?)
a. Does the thesis contain two responses ?			
b. Is the thesis phrased in one or two sentences ?			
c. Does the thesis state both responses and the article point/feature to be discussed?			
Summary Structure and Content			
Element 1	+/-		
A topic sentence/paragraph head			
Quality criteria	Yes	No	Quality 1-5 (What can be improved?)
a. It is phrased in one or two sentences ?			
b. Does it say how many major points the author made?			

Element 2	+/-		
The first key idea			
Quality criteria	Yes	No	Quality 1-5 (What can be improved?)
a. Is there a transition to introduce the first key idea?			
b. Is there a reporting verb to refer to the author's idea?			
Element 3	+/-		
Supporting ideas that illustrate the first idea (<i>important examples, evidence, a short quotation, and information from the source text</i>)			
Quality criteria	Yes	No	Quality 1-5 (What can be improved?)
a. Does the example/evidence support the first key idea?			
b. Is the example/evidence detailed enough for the reader to understand the first key idea?			
c. Is the example/evidence described in a concise manner ?			
d. Is the first idea logically developed through the example/evidence?			
e. Are there reporting verbs where references are made to the examples/evidence the author has provided?			
Element 4	+/-		
The second key idea			
Quality criteria	Yes	No	Quality 1-5 (What can be improved?)
a. Is there a transition to introduce the second key idea?			
b. Is there a reporting verb to refer to the author's idea?			

Element 5	+/-		
Supporting ideas that illustrate the second idea (<i>important examples, evidence, a short quotation, and information from the source text</i>)			
Quality criteria	Yes	No	Quality 1-5 (What can be improved?)
a. Does the example/evidence support the first key idea?			
b. Is the example/evidence detailed enough for the reader to understand the first key idea?			
c. Is the example/evidence described in a concise manner ?			
d. Is the second idea logically developed through the example/evidence?			
e. Are there reporting verbs where references are made to the examples/evidence the author has provided?			
Element 6	+/-		
The third key idea			
Quality criteria	Yes	No	Quality 1-5 (What can be improved?)
a. Is there a transition to introduce the third key idea?			
b. Is there a reporting verb to refer to the author's idea?			
Response Paragraph Structure, Content, and Cohesion			
Element 1	+/-		
A topic sentence/paragraph head			
Quality criteria	Yes	No	Quality 1-5 (What can be improved?)
a. Does it paraphrase Response One from the thesis ?			

b. Does it outline which ideas/article features you are responding to?			
c. Does it state your opinion about these ideas/article features ?			
Element 2	+/-		
The explanation of the first idea/article feature you are responding to and your viewpoint .			
Quality criteria	Yes	No	Quality 1-5 (What can be improved?)
a. Is there a transition to introduce this element?			
b. Does it outline which idea/article feature you are responding to?			
c. Does it state your opinion about this idea/article feature ?			
Element 3	+/-		
An example/examples from your own observations or those of other authors .			
Quality criteria	Yes	No	Quality 1-5 (What can be improved?)
a. Is there a transition to introduce this element?			
c. Is the example convincing ?			
d. Is the example detailed enough ?			
e. Is the example described in a concise manner ?			
Element 4	+/-		
The explanation of the second idea/article feature you are responding to and your viewpoint .			
Quality criteria	Yes	No	Quality 1-5 (What can be improved?)
a. Is there a transition to introduce this element?			
b. Does it outline which idea/article feature you are responding to?			

c. Does it state your opinion about this idea/article feature ?				
Element 5		+/-		
An example/examples from the student's own observations or those of other authors.				
Quality criteria	Yes	No	Quality 1-5 (What can be improved?)	
a. Is there a transition to introduce this element?				
b. Is the example convincing ?				
c. Is the example detailed enough ?				
d. Is the example described in a concise manner ?				
Response Paragraph Coherence and Cohesion				
Quality criteria	Yes	No	Quality 1-5 (What can be improved?)	
a. Are the ideas presented in the paragraph logically organized?				
b. Have you used a variety of transitions ?				
APA Style In-Text Citations				
Quality criteria	Yes	No	Quality 1-5 (What can be improved?)	
a. Have you cited a quotation/quotations correctly?				
b. Have you used in-text citations for paraphrased information correctly?				
Conclusion Structure and Content				
Element 1	+/-			
The restatement of the author's/authors' main idea				
Quality criteria	Yes	No	Quality 1-5 (What can be improved?)	
a. Does the paragraph start with an appropriate transition ?				

b. Have you used synonyms and a different sentence structure to <u>paraphrase</u> the author's/authors' main idea (compare it with the main idea provided in the Introduction)?			
c. Have you used a reporting verb to refer to the author's/authors' main idea?			
Element 2	+/-		
The restatement of your thesis			
Quality criteria	Yes	No	Quality 1-5 (What can be improved?)
a. Have you used an appropriate transition to introduce the restatement of the thesis (if necessary)?			
b. Have you used synonyms and a different sentence structure to <u>paraphrase</u> the thesis (compare it with the thesis in the Introduction)?			
Element 3	+/-		
A prediction and/or a call to action			
Quality criteria	Yes	No	Quality 1-5 (What can be improved?)
a. Does the final sentence logically conclude the essay?			
Academic Writing Style			
Quality criteria	Yes		No Quality 1-5 (What can be improved?)
a. Have you used full verb forms rather than <i>contracted</i> forms?			
b. Have you used gender-neutral language?			

c. Have you used one-word verbs rather than <i>phrasal verbs</i> ?			
d. Have you used academic vocabulary rather than <i>colloquial words</i> ?			
e. Have you followed all basic academic writing style rules ?			
Vocabulary and Grammar Range and Accuracy			
Quality criteria	Yes	No	Quality 1-5 (What can be improved?)
a. Have you used a range of relevant and precise vocabulary ?			
b. Have you used a range of complex grammar structures ?			
c. Are the sentences error free ?			
Major Strengths and Weaknesses			
a. What are the major strengths of the essay?			
b. What should you improve in order to make the essay more effective?			