

EN201 Response Papers

Twice during the semester, you will write a response paper based on the assigned readings or class discussion. These will be short (~2 pages) but useful for generating ideas about a topic. You should use 12 pt font, Times New Roman, double-spaced, and 1-inch margins. You should also include a works cited page listing the sources you use (even if it is just the primary text).

For an analytical response paper, you should follow the traditional essay format (i.e. introduction/body/conclusion). You will need to have a thesis statement and supporting examples and points from the text. Be specific and use quotes and paraphrases from the text(s). It will be a better paper if you go into detail and depth, rather than trying to cover a really big or broad idea and only analyze it superficially. I will give you several topics to choose from for each response paper.

Response Paper #1 Topics: DUE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd.

1. Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poem "How do I love thee?" often mistakenly gets credited to Shakespeare. Why do you think this happens? What similarities do you see?
2. Our general topic last week was "Romantic Relationships." Compare two of our author's portrayals of romantic relationships.
3. How or why might particular genres or forms work particularly well with certain topics? For example, why does romance and poetry often go hand in hand? Or tragedy and drama?
4. Create your own topic - If you have a really great idea for a response paper, then you are free to create your own topic. HOWEVER, you need to tell me about it in advance so that I can approve it.

Response Paper #2: DUE MONDAY, MARCH 30th.

1. Make a claim for why a particular critical approach does NOT work for analyzing *Frankenstein*.
2. Creative Option: Imagine a conversation between Victor Frankenstein and a character from one of the other stories we've read this semester? Would the characters have something in common or would they argue?
3. Create your own topic - If you have a really great idea for a response paper, then you are free to create your own topic. HOWEVER, you need to tell me about it by Friday so that I can approve it.

Rubric for EN201 Papers

(15%) Thesis: Should be clear, specific, and arguable. Should be the same in both introduction and conclusion. Everything should relate back to this thesis. Should probably mention the main text(s) you will discuss and the major points you will make. If in answer to a question or prompt, make sure it fits the assignment.

(35%) Supporting points with examples: These major points should support the overarching argument for the paper (i.e. the thesis). You should use specific examples and quotes from the text(s) with an accompanying introduction and explanation of the context of the quote and how exactly these examples prove the point and the overall thesis.

(30%) Organization: Introduction (Attention grabber, introduce context/background of topic, thesis statement), Body (Major supporting points), Conclusion (restate thesis, sum up, so what?). Clear transitions between points.

(10%) Surface errors: Mechanics, such as punctuation and spelling, and grammar and diction

(10%) Citations / Works Cited: Appropriately cite sources within the paper and on the works cited page at the end using MLA style.