**Reader Response Journal Instructions**

**Instructions:**

A reader response journal is your personal reaction to a text. The goal is to explore:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Paragraph 1** | **Summary** | Begin with a **brief summary** of the events.* Don’t list every event in the novel, just the important things you’re responding to.
* Be sure to include the **author**, the **title** or **section** of the text .
* Also state what you think the **author’s purpose** is.
	+ Ie. Developing character, theme, symbol, etc..
 |
| **Paragraph 2** | **Analysis** | Follow this with **your analysis**. Use properly cited **quotations or references** to the text where applicable. * Identify the **purpose** of the text.
	+ Analyze any major themes, motifs, symbols, or character development from the text.
* **Critique** **the successfulness** of the text.
	+ What did the author do well (or not)? Why do you think that?
 |
| **Paragraph 3** | **Your Reaction** | End with a **personal connection.** Provide a personal anecdote or opinion to explain why you connect (or do not connect) with certain elements of the text.* Your **reaction** to the text.
* Make **connections** with other texts or world events to justify your opinion.

**Response Starters:** Choose **one** of the following questions if you don’t know what to write:a. How do you **personally relate** to the text? Which characters or events do you like the most? What does this suggest about you? b.What did you **learn** from the text? Did it challenge or reinforce your opinions on a topic? What parts were most meaningful; or, why did it fail to communicate with you? c.Does the author share **your values**? Consider what is important to your family, community, ethnic group, social class, or faith. Have they misrepresented a social group?d.Should high school students read this text? Is it valuable to students in general? Why?e.Do you value this text? Would you **recommend** it a friend? What are the **selling points** that appeal to the **target audience**?  |

While there is no “wrong answer” to a reader response, it is evaluated by the level of insight to the text that you demonstrate, and the justification of your position.

**Format:**

You do not need to write in expository paragraphs, as this is an informal response. However, the point, proof, explanation model is a strong means of **supporting your opinion**. Your journal should be **two pages** in length **legibly** hand written (single spaced), or **one page** typed (MLA formatting).

**Rubric:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **R** | **Level 1** | **Level 2** | **Level 3** | **Level 4** |
| **Reader’s** **Response** **Journal** |  |  |  | * Response journal is the appropriate length and well organized
* Demonstrates considerable understanding of the novel
* Applies critical thinking skills consistently and with exceptional degree of effectiveness
* Examples and direct references are appropriately used to support opinions
* Makes insightful connections between the text and self
* Polished journal is free from grammatical and mechanical errors
* Polished journals and citations are MLA formatted
 |  |