## English 203

## Summary/Response Paper

The summary/response paper is a one page (single or double-spaced) typed paper on one of the readings. The purpose of these papers is for you to learn about what you are reading through writing. They will hone your skills at summarizing and engaging with various types of research.

The first half of the paper should be a summary of the text. Do not worry about being exhaustive in your summary but do be as clear and detailed as possible. I do not expect a "blow-by-blow" account, but I do expect that you can convey an understanding of the major concepts, concerns, and nuances in the text. Start with the main claim or argument of the text and then show how the writer moves through that argument. You should use quotations and paraphrases to highlight the main points, and of course, you should use appropriate academic discourse and adhere to MLA style in citing texts.

The second half of the paper should be a response to the text, in which you interrogate/analyze some aspect or concept in the reading—perhaps a specific claim that was made in a particular passage or a general concept or sentiment conveyed. You might also analyze the article in relation to other readings for our class, or even connect them to another PW course you are taking. Your response should directly engage with the text. In other words, I'm asking for a form of close reading that incorporates your own ideas with that of the text.

Finally, you should conclude with a brief list of questions that you would like the class to consider for discussion.

These papers will enable you to learn about what you are reading through writing. We will use these responses as a basis for discussion and debate. Occasionally, we may also exchange these responses in small groups and engage in a writing dialogue. You should think of these responses as "public discourse"—documents that will inform, entertain, and delight the intellectual sensibilities of the class.