

Critical Response Essay: Higher Order Concerns Checklist

SAVE EVERYTHING NOW.

HOCs:

_____ **Meeting the “Brief”** (aka doing exactly what the assignment sheet calls for): This essay is a modified version of our same 5-Point Critical Response strategy in response to ONE TEXT (song, movie, TV episode, story, music video, podcast episode, commercial, political ad, comic book issue, and/or YouTube video etc.) of your choosing. This time there are a few more “crunchy” steps here:

- _____ For starters, this critical response essay is about 1 single text. Then,
- _____ 1) the response is a bit longer (at least 600+ words)
 - _____ 2) the introduction provides a summary of the text;
 - _____ 3) the essay shifts into observations and associations to contextualize the text.
 - _____ 4) the essay proceeds to ask clear, critical question(s) about your text;
 - _____ 5) the essay then proposes clear, definitive hypothetical answer(s) to your question(s)
 - _____ 6) identify at least 2 supporting points directly within your text to back up your answer(s).
- _____ 7) If possible, use one (1) or more credible library sources clearly and thoughtfully.

Paragraph #1: Summary

(Birthday Invitation Rules all streamlined in 1-2 sentences)

- _____ Who/ Author
- _____ What/ Title
- _____ When/ Date
- _____ What happens/ Brief synopsis

Paragraph #2: Observations

(Describe 2-3 topics/ themes from the text that really stand out to you. What here really strikes you as strange, fascinating, upsetting, interesting, etc, and why?)

- _____ 2-3 clearly identified observations in the text— what really stands out here?
- _____ Each observation is described in thoughtful, thorough detail

Paragraph #3: Associations

(Describe any associations that these topics/themes in the text brings up for you. Do the details/themes you observed remind you of other texts or conversations that you've encountered, and Why?)

- _____ 2-3 clearly identified associations— what does this text make you think of?
- _____ Each connection between the texts here is described fully.

Paragraph #4: Questions

(Describe 2-3 questions that come up when you're reading/watching this text. Again, these can be narrative story questions or questions about larger themes in the text. (The best questions usually start with How..? and Why..?))

- _____ 2-3 clear, sophisticated questions about the larger dynamics and themes of the text, not plot questions.
- _____ Each question clearly points to its roots in the text and sets up the essay to answer smoothly.

Paragraph #5: Answers

(Describe answers for the critical questions that you've pitched. Create hypothesis answers your own inquiries.)

- _____ Propose answers to your own questions.
- _____ These answers should read as clear, deliberate, argumentative statements

Paragraph #6: Evidence

(When answering your own critical questions, ground your answers in details from the text—the more specific, the better: direct quotes, wording, specific actions, plot points, tonal shifts, imagery, etc.)

- _____ Each answer is supported by 2+ points of evidence from the text
- _____ These points of evidence from the text are specific and precise.

Paragraph #6: Conclusion:

_____ Essay has a short conclusion that clearly ends the paper on a thoughtful note about larger conversations that could come up in the future based on this text.

Critical Response Essay: Lower Order Concerns Checklist

Use this checklist to cross-check your Critical Response Essay for “Lower Order Concern.”

SAVE EVERYTHING NOW.

LOCs:

- _____ READ YOUR DRAFT ALOUD→ then circle/star anything that sounds off.
- _____ Essay Title = “Critical Response to_____”
- _____ Contractions (do not use contractions→ ex: don’t, isn’t, aren’t, etc..)
- _____ Spelling
- _____ Grammar
- _____ Strong Verbs
- _____ Clarity
- _____ Avoiding Wordiness & Vague Generalizations & Aiming for Concision
- _____ Professional Tone
- _____ Smooth Style and Transitions
- _____ Fixing Comma Splices
- _____ Avoiding Sentence Fragments
- _____ Phrasing (smoothing out awkward sentences)
- _____ Punctuation
- _____ Capitalization
- _____ Formatting!! → TIMES NEW ROMAN FONT, 1” MARGINS, DOUBLE-SPACED, MLA HEADING.
- _____ MLA Citations for your cited source
- _____ Meeting the Word Count
- _____ SAVE: Be sure to keep saving everything!!

Yay! You finished! Now, start at the beginning of the Revision checklist, and do it again ☺

- Remember our Assignment Goals!
 - To rehearse summary, contextualization, essay organization, analysis, and close reading skills for ONE text
 - To rehearse more textured, more dynamic argument styles and strategies
 - To rehearse integrating quotations and MLA citation use
 - To focus on the writing and drafting process and exercise revision and peer-review