

Critical Response & Analysis Essay Outline

The goal of this outline is to help you maintain your Critical Response Essay's structure while working on or revising your draft. Follow along with each short paragraph prompt, and fill out each section accordingly. Once you have filled out all of the sections, you will have a completed rough draft, but the paper will not be done. From there, you will need to edit, smooth, and shape each section into tight paragraphs. Please give extra attention to your Question(s), Answer(s), and Evidence from the text. You do not need to follow the fill in the blanks precisely, and you are free to set up your own.

Essay Title:

Critical Response to _____

Paragraph #1: Summary

(Birthday Invitation Rules)

→ Classic Birthday Invitation Rules Summary:

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?)

→ Some major points of interest that stand out in this text include _____.

→ These points draw attention to themes of _____ in the text.

→ _____ also stands out as a major feature in this text because _____, and to this effect, it emphasizes _____.

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?)

→ This text works with [major themes/ archetypes/ images/ messages/ narratives] about _____, and in this way, this text is very similar to _____ because _____.

→ This text is also very similar to _____ because it makes us think more about _____.

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..?))

A possible question that comes up when engaging this text is _____

_____.

Another possible question here is _____

_____.

Paragraph #5: Answers

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

→ In response to this question/these questions about _____, I propose

OR

→ One possible way to answer this question/ these questions is

_____.

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.)

→ An example from the text that supports this answer is _____

_____.

→ Another example from the text that supports this answer is _____

_____.

→ _____ also serves as strong supporting evidence for this answer.

Paragraph #6: Conclusion:

Ultimately, when we consider___[Text]___ , confront questions about_____, and examine _____ as possible answers, we need to consider a larger conversation about _____. These larger conversations are important because_____.