



Response Essays

How to Write the First Draft

Introduction



Summary of article + Writing prompt + Thesis of essay

1. Thesis sentence (Include the author's name, the name of the article, the thesis of the article, and main points.)
2. Summary of article's main points (3-4 sentences)
3. Statement of writing prompt responding to
4. Thesis sentence for this essay



Introduction

Model introduction

Cicarelli and White, in 'Secrets for Surviving College and Improving Your Grades', write that three major strategies will help students succeed in college: learning style study methods, time management, and reading techniques. The authors discuss four learning styles and offer study methods for each style for students to use. In addition, Ciccarelli and White write about time management, with an emphasis on tackling one task at a time rather than multitasking. The final point is reading techniques, where the authors discuss mistakes students make when reading textbooks and offer an explanation of the SQ3R reading method. On page 7 in the article, Table A gives learning methods for the different types of learning styles. As a visual learner, I agree with the suggestions the authors made for visual learners for several reasons.

Body Paragraphs



Topic sentence + Major support(s) + Minor support(s)

1. Transition + Topic sentence
2. Major support (Why topic sentence is true)
3. Transition + Minor support (Examples)



Body paragraphs

Model first body paragraph

First, I agree that the technique of highlighting reinforces facts for visual learners. When I'm reviewing for a test, I can easily identify important information. For example, on my last psychology test, I didn't need to study as long as I had to study previously when I tried to read the chapter and my notes. In contrast, the highlighted material made studying very easy because I could quickly identify important points, which were highlighted in yellow. I had used blue to highlight less important information. Best of all, I was able to recall the information when I took the test, resulting in a higher mark than usual.



Body paragraphs (cont.)

Model second body paragraph

In addition, I agree that visualizing charts and diagrams is helpful. It aids visual learners in remembering information. For example, in order to write this response essay, I first took a minute to visualize Table A, which listed multiple study methods. I was then able to fill out the opinion graphics organizer, which I'm using to write this essay.



Body paragraphs (cont.)

Model third body paragraph

However, I disagree that making flash cards is a helpful method.

It is not time effective. During Ramadan, people are very tired as well as they have many activities they must take part in. For example, families gather each evening, and many go to a mosque to pray.



Body paragraphs (cont.)

Model fourth body paragraph

Finally, I disagree with tracing letters and words as an effective way to study. Many visual learners will only remember isolated words or phrases if they use this method rather than remembering information. To illustrate, I base this claim on a recent experience. I could only recall words; however, they were not in any context. Consequently, my test mark was low.

Conclusion



Paraphrase of thesis sentence + Summary of main points + Concluding sentence

To conclude, while I think that using the techniques of highlighting and visualizing charts and diagrams will help visual learners, I disagree that employing flash cards and tracing letters and words to use as study techniques will be useful. Using one color to highlight very important information and another color to highlight less important information is a great way to review quickly for exams and ensure that facts are remembered. Also, being able to 'picture' graphs and charts in a visual learner's mind is a really good way to recall information. However, using flash cards is too time consuming, and tracing letters and words might prove disastrous for visual learners since they would possibly just visualize letters and words rather than information that makes sense. All in all, I think the authors did a good job with their advice for visual learners.