

## Reading Response Assignment

### ➤ What is a reading response?

A Reading Response is **not a summary of your reading**. A Reading Response is a way of *writing about your thinking* about the reading, or your *reaction(s)* to a reading. A Reading Response is not a formal paper, but should be well thought-out, fully developed, and carefully written, nevertheless. It should demonstrate not only that you have carefully read the text (more than one time), but also that you have thought carefully about the text and *engaged* with it in some way.

Think about not only the text overall, but also smaller sections of it. How does one incident or phrase or symbol echo the larger meaning of the work?

An effective Reading Response will demonstrate that you have thoroughly read and understood the reading (or that you ask questions that reveal careful reading). It might develop connections between the reading and the themes of the course or discussions we've had in class or lecture and *demonstrate that you have considered the implications of the readings*. It may suggest questions for class discussion.

Be specific about the work you're discussing, provide details from the text to back up any assertions you may make by quoting directly from the text, and finally, pay attention to grammar and mechanics.

### ➤ Some Questions to Consider in a Reading Response

Try to think about just a few of these; a successful Reading Response will consider one or two issues in depth rather than attempt to answer each one of these questions.

- How does the reading demonstrate the culture or values of the ancient Israelites? What does it tell us about how these people lived and what they valued most?
- How does the reading reflect cultural attitudes of the ancient Israelites about gender or about race?
- How did you feel about what you read, and why do you think the text provoked this response in you?
- Did the reading *reflect* **or** *challenge* your own values and assumptions, and how so?

### ➤ Length and Revision

Each response should be at least 500-1000 words (a *minimum* of two, full, typewritten, double-spaced pages). There is no maximum word count, so write as much as you like!

You will write three Reading Responses over the course of the semester, which may be revised with my feedback if you'd like to earn a higher grade.

➤ **Format**

Please use the following format for the header on the first page of your RR. Everything should be double spaced.

Your Name

Response #1

Date in this format - 7 September 2013

Name of the reading (Ex. Book of Ruth, Deuteronomy); Chapter (s) #:Verse # (s) (Ex. 3:14-27)

Page #s in the *Tanakh*

Also, please insert page numbers in the top right of each page.

➤ **Reading Response Works to Choose From by Date and Due Date**

All Reading Response papers are **due at the beginning of class** on the day they are due. If you do not turn your RR in when I ask for it, it will be considered late, and I do not accept late work except under extraordinary circumstances.

Remember that you can break any of these into smaller sections if you want in order to make you RR more intricate and detailed. For example, you could write about Judges chapter 5 only, instead of having to write about chapters 3, 4, and 5. You could also discuss, for example, only the beginning (first verse) of Psalm 23.

For Reading Response #1, **due Monday, September 9**, you may write about any of the following readings:

- Psalm 23 and/or discuss two different translations
- *Ruth*
- *Judges* 3:12-31, 4-5
- *Deuteronomy* 32:7-14

For Reading Response #2, **due Wednesday, October 16**, you may write about any of the following readings:

- *Judges* 13-16
- *Judges* 11:1-11, 11:29-40; 17-18, 21
- *I Samuel* 1-7
- *I Samuel* 8-11, 13-15
- *II Samuel* 21:18-19
- *I Samuel* 16-18
- *I Samuel* 19-22, 24-25, 27-29, 31
- *II Samuel* 1-6, 12:1-14, 9
- *II Samuel* 11-13
- *II Samuel* 15-19:41
- *I Kings* 1-3, 5:9-6:6

- *I Kings* 9-12 (535-41)
- *The Song of Songs*

For Reading Response #3, **due Monday, December 12,** you may write about any of the following readings:

- *I Kings* 12, 16:29-33, 17, 18:16-46, 20-22
- *Deuteronomy* 33
- *I Kings* 13
- *II Kings* 18:1-12, 22-23:30
- *Deuteronomy* 12, 16
- *II Kings* 23:31-25:30
- *Jeremiah* 44:14-19
- *Lamentations* 1
- *Psalms* 137
- *Book of Esther*
- *Genesis* 11:27-32, 12-13, 16-18
- *Genesis* 19-22
- *Genesis* 24, 25:19-34, 26:6-11, 27
- *Genesis* 28:10-33, 49
- *Genesis* 34-35, 37-38
- *Genesis* 39-45, 47:20-25, 48
- *Exodus* 1-11
- *Psalms* 78:42-54
- *Psalms* 105: 26-37
- *Exodus* 12-15, 19-21
- *Genesis* 1-2
- *Proverbs* 8:1-2, 22-36

## Reading Response Rubric

*This is the criteria I will use to evaluate and grade your RRs.*

<b>A</b> 90-100 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focused topic throughout writing.</li> <li>• Writing is organized.</li> <li>• Many supporting details from text.</li> <li>• Writing contains your own ideas and thinking.</li> <li>• Creative word choice.</li> <li>• Writing has smooth sentences of different lengths.</li> <li>• Writing contains few grammar, spelling, and mechanics errors.</li> </ul>
<b>B</b> 80-89 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focused topic is generally maintained.</li> <li>• Writing is organized with some lapses.</li> <li>• Some supporting details from text.</li> <li>• Writing contains some of your own ideas and thinking.</li> <li>• Some creative word choice.</li> <li>• Writing has smooth sentences of different lengths.</li> <li>• Writing contains some grammar, spelling, and mechanics errors.</li> </ul>
<b>C</b> 70-79 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topic may include unrelated ideas.</li> <li>• Writing has an organization with lapses.</li> <li>• Supporting details from text are not fully developed.</li> <li>• Your own ideas and thinking were not sufficiently included or explained.</li> <li>• Few creative word choices.</li> <li>• Writing has choppy sentences and uses mostly simple sentences.</li> <li>• Writing contains many grammar, spelling, and mechanics errors.</li> </ul>
<b>D / F</b> 0-69 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing has no clear topic.</li> <li>• Writing has little or no organization.</li> <li>• Little use of details from the text.</li> <li>• Limited word choice.</li> <li>• Sentences are difficult to read and understand.</li> <li>• Writing has major grammar, spelling, and mechanics errors.</li> </ul>

**Total Points:** \_\_\_\_\_ **x 2 = Final Points:** \_\_\_\_\_ / 200

**Final Letter Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_