

## RESPONDING TO LITERATURE IN 10P

What is a *reading log*?

A *reading log* can serve many different purposes and take a variety of forms, depending on the specific class and teacher. In our class, ***the main purpose of a log is to record your insights about what you have read and to keep a record of questions that occur to you as you are reading.*** You may also write about thoughts, feelings, and connections to your own life and also link one reading to another literary work or to other art, music, film and so on that occur to you as you are reading or when you have finished the selection. Any summarizing of plot would be just “bare bones” for the purpose of orienting yourself/reader to the major points of the selection you intend to bring under consideration. You can use subtitles (such as “Insights,” “Questions,” and “Personal Reactions/Connections,” “Links to other Works”), arrange your ideas in bulleted lists, or just write in paragraph format.

What is a *reaction paper*?

A *reaction paper* is a paper that responds to the selection as a whole. In this sort of response, you would **consider all aspects of the work**, including the entire plot, all the characters, and any themes that you notice. You would share a variety of original ideas and observations that occurred to you as you read this particular work. This sort of response is similar to a log, but the format is more like an essay because it is **written in paragraphs and makes definite statements** about your insights about the author’s intentions. Still, you may certainly raise questions and add personal responses, as well.

What is a *question paper*?

A *question paper* is different from a reaction paper. In this sort of response, you **consider one specific aspect of the reading**. You pose a specific question about the reading, **much like the “prompt” a teacher would give on an essay test**. Then you answer your own question in **traditional essay format**, with a good solid thesis statement followed by the needed body paragraphs and a powerful conclusion.

What is a *poetry analysis*?

A *poetry analysis* calls for a line by line careful interpretation of the assigned poem. While poems are “open to interpretation,” making more than one “right” meaning not only possible but likely, that does not mean that a poem can mean “whatever a reader thinks it means.” **An interpretation is only as valid as one’s ability to defend it with credible use of the poet’s own words.** See “How to Interpret a Poem” in Student Resources” on our website.