

Response Paper Guidelines

American Literature

1. Your response should be typed, double spaced, using MLA format and heading.
2. Your response should be 1.5 pages long. Shorter responses will not receive full credit. (see below)
3. For each response, I offer a topic on your assignment sheet; however if you find something of more interest to you in the particular text, you may write about that.
4. Your response must quote the work in question. If your response contains no quotation, then you receive a zero.
5. The quotations must be integrated into the paragraphs with narrative tags. “Floating quotations,” quotations that stand alone in a sentence, will garner no points.
6. You must comment on the quotations. They cannot stand alone. Remember to include the correctly-documented parenthetical citations.
7. You must interpret the text. Do not turn in a paragraph of summary. Summaries will receive no credit.
8. You must provide some meaningful discussion of the work in question. Stretch your thoughts of interpretation—there are no wrong answers
9. The response must be clearly unified, grammatically correct, and free of typographical errors.
10. In the first paragraph, clearly identify the author and the work. Short stories, poems, and essays appear in quotation marks. Novels and plays are underlined.

Grades: I will give your responses checks.

- = 14 points (70%)
- = 17 points (85%)
- + = 20 points (100%)

Each response is worth 20 points.

5 responses equal 100 points, a substantial amount of the final grade