

CITED COMMENTARY & RESPONSE (a synthesis and citations piece)

PART I - IDEAS

Over the last several class periods, we have read essays, TED talks, articles, poems, and songs (only a fraction of genres available when you research a topic).

Now, for the thinking...

What *have* you been thinking about any of these topics? Do you see places where the mentor texts intersect, overlap, agree or disagree with one another? What do YOU have to add to the conversations around these topics? Which pieces connect? (Challenge: can you push beyond the obvious connections to bigger, deeper, or more analytical ones?)

Think about how you will comment on, respond to, and join the “conversation” around one of these important topics.

Generate some ideas. Which pieces might you focus on? How do they connect? What will you say?

So many combinations exist that the possibilities are practically endless.

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PART II – MORE RESEARCH

Additional works in each of the genres we studied (and with related subject matter) are provided as supplemental to what we read/wrote about in class. Read and annotate/take notes as needed and add a source to strengthen your paper and add to your ideas.

You can incorporate any of these provided sources or even search for your own source—news articles, TED talks, button poetry, songs, essays from collections—who else is “talking” about your issue? Note: any sources you add will need work cited entries and to be documented in text when you quote, paraphrase, or summarize them.

Sources might be 1) a way to strengthen a claim you make through new perspective or information 2) a naysayer to counter a claim, that you can then counter again 3) a way to make a new point you hadn’t considered previously and can then elaborate on 4) a sidepoint that feels relevant and adds depth to your argument.

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PART III – WRITE & CITE

Continue to use “they say/I say” strategies (like in the 4 part notes) to write your commentary and response piece. Use your own powers of analysis to make discoveries, come to conclusions, and share them with your readers. What do you have to say about “it”?

Within your writing, use examples both paraphrased and quoted to flex your research muscles. Try using at least 3 of the following ways to integrate source material.*

- a verbatim quote with author mention in your text
- a verbatim quote without author mention (author name in the citation if appropriate)
- a paraphrased idea with author mention in your text
- a paraphrased idea without author mention (author name in the citation if appropriate)
- a summarized idea with author mention in your text
- a summarized idea without author mention (author name in the citation if appropriate)

It's okay to cite more than required, but you won't necessarily need to. Be sure to leave plenty of your own thinking on the page (after all, it's *your* paper). Show smart source use; only quote word for word where it matters—where it's most effective and where word choice or message needs to be exact. Paraphrase in *your own words*. (Changing just one or two words is NOT a paraphrase.) If you need to omit part of a quote, make clarifications within a quote, or change capitalization within a quote to suit your needs, be sure to use ellipses and brackets correctly.

Use the frameworks provided in the “they say/I say” templates *if* you need help juxtaposing sources or working back and forth between your thoughts and those of the researched authors.

*Hint: You may find it easier to first *just write*, then go back and think about where you need to cite. There's no real order to HOW you accomplish this. Mostly, just be sure to integrate sources and then you can manipulate it to include what's required.

This assignment is looking for three things:

1. “good” or “effective” writing
2. nice integration of sources with an emphasis on synthesis (how they fit together and how you work back and forth between them—not just in big chunks)
3. perfect MLA citation technique (both in text and on the works cited page)

Bring your draft (and your completed preconference sheet) to WRITE CLUB for a read-through and to get feedback from your group.

YOUR ENTIRE PAPER SHOULD BE NO LESS THAN 2 AND NO MORE THAN 3 PAGES LONG IN STANDARD MLA FORMAT. IT SHOULD HAVE PROPER IN-TEXT CITATIONS AND A WORKS CITED PAGE (WHICH DOES NOT COUNT AS A PAGE OF YOUR PAPER).