

Summary and Response



Choose a Text. Select a short reading from the first part of our reading schedule, Marx and Engels to Hebdige (Aug 21-Sept 6). Do not select the introductory material by Durham and Kellner, but any one of the other primary text selections would be fine.

The Basic Assignment. Write a three- to four-page paper (750-1,000 words) that summarizes the selected text's primary argument and responds to it by speaking back to it.

Some Advice. In your summary, strive for clarity (making sure that your readers understand exactly what you are saying) and accuracy (making sure that what you are saying about the critical article is true).

In your response, use your own critical thinking and your own ideas about culture to start a conversation with the piece you've selected. You do not need to oppose the author's view, but you do need to think critically about what he has said, analyzing, examining, and evaluating the article's argument carefully. Some possible responses might include:

- An application of the theory (to a TV show, a song, an ad, a poem, etc.)
- A development of further questions that you think arise from the theory; further directions for the development of the ideas in the selected piece
- An explanation of changes in your thinking as a result of your encounter with the theory (you once saw things this way, but now you see them differently)
- An analysis of the connections or contrasts with other theoretical ideas
- A defense of the theory's significance; an explanation of what you think we gain from seeing the world from this theoretical perspective
- A critique of the theory; a specific explication of the problems with its logic, coherence, evidence, relevance, or usefulness

You may separate your summary from your response or combine the summarizing with the responding. Organize the paper in a way that makes the most sense to you. The paper should have a good title. It should be typed and double-spaced.

Due Date. Wednesday, September 6.

Length. 3-4 pages

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