

Summary and Response Paper

Choose Wisely. Select a short reading from the first part of our reading schedule, Plato to Samuel Johnson (Jan 17-Feb 7). You might choose an essay, a chapter, or one of the shorter selections from the anthology. Don't, for example, choose *all* of *The Republic* or all of Aristotle's *Poetics*.

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 literature 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.

You may separate your summary from your response, if you like, or you may combine your summarizing with your 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. Thursday, February 2.

Length. 3-4 pages.



Moses Maimonides, 1135-1204