

Summary RESPONSE: What to Write About

Things You Can Write About in a **Summary**

Summaries of different types of readings focus on different things.

Type of Reading or Purpose	Write about these in your Summary
Essay Expressive Argument Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting points—kind of evidence used—personal experience, research, statistics, data, interviews • Why the author sees it a particular way • Why it's important
Instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic requirements: <i>what</i> to do and <i>how</i> to do it • Restrictions or things to avoid—what not to do • Other guidelines: development, format, style, tone, voice • Overall tips and tricks to help do this
Samples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of techniques are used to get attention or connect with the reader? • What kind of tone and voice is used? What kind of evidence or examples? • What is the overall feel of this kind of writing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Give examples of any of these that stand out

Of course, some readings can combine these and other purposes for writing, so you need to read carefully and be open-minded.

Things You Can Write About in a **RESPONSE**

Responses to the different types of readings also have different possibilities.

Type of Reading or Purpose	Write about these in your RESPONSE
Essay Expressive Argument Analysis	What do you think: Agree? Disagree? Some of both? Why? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quote or discuss specific parts and connect to your thoughts, experience, and/or knowledge. • Explain how you can use/apply the ideas: Where and why?
Instructions	Talk about how the key things they discuss apply to your past or present experience doing the topic. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have other things worked for you in the past? • What things do you need to learn, practice, or find out more about? • What sources do you need or can you use to help you do this? • What plans do you have that can incorporate what they teach or discuss?
Samples	The effectiveness of different parts of the work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Voice and tone •Structure •Word choice or Imagery •Examples or Evidence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What ways you can use the techniques shown? • What ideas do the sample gives you for your own work?

Like the summary, you'll need to be flexible with your response. Most importantly, focus on how what you're reading is supposed to help you. Then respond to the reading in terms of that.