**Response Essay Pre-write**

A response essay (1-2 pages) is a brief reaction to the text after you have read it, thought about it, formed an opinion, and analyzed it. It is your own understanding and knowledge that you have gained from the specific reading. While a small part may include a plot summary of the reading, you also need to emphasize the main topics, themes, and ideas presented to you. (Don’t know about literary terms? You can look those up. I have one for [fiction](2122%20Literary%20Elements%20of%20Fiction.docx) and one for [poetry](2122%20Literary%20Elements%20of%20Poetry.pdf). Also feel free to ask me a question like what does theme mean again?) Go beyond what it is about and show what strikes you in a particular way and how does the author present that. Think about:

* how you felt upon reading it
* what you thought about it
* what you liked best about it
* what you liked least about it
* how does this story reflect a sense of a particular British era
* have I used examples from the text to show what I mean?

You may choose to use one of the writing prompts (see below) or not but definitely don’t just regurgitate what you heard in class or in the textbook. I want to hear your opinion and support it with examples from chosen text.

**Questions to ponder for possible topics**

**for the Romantic Response Paper#1:**

1. How was the Industrial Revolution reflected in Romantic poems?

“The Chimney Sweeper” by Blake, “Composed upon Westminister Bridge September 3 1802” by Wordsworth, “The World is too much with us” by Wordsworth

1. How did the interest in the supernatural and gothic themes reveal itself in Romantic poems?

“Kubla Khan” by Coleridge, “The Sea View” by Charlotte Smith, “On Being Cautioned against Walking on an Headland Overlooking the Sea, Because it was frequented by a Lunatic” by Charlotte Smith, “Immolation of a Hindoo Widow” by Letitia Elizabeth Landon, “Cristabel” by Coleridge (longer, more challenging piece), “The Eve of St Agnes” (longer, more challenging piece)

1. How was the war reflected in Romantic poetry?

“Eighteen Hundred and Eleven” by Anna Barbauld, “The Solitary Reaper” by Wordsworth, “Casabianca” by Felicia Hemans

1. Consider one of the women poets of the Romantic era who are often overlooked even though some were very popular during their lifetime. (Here is a good blog/resource: <https://sarahrosemcgrath.wordpress.com/2018/04/18/women-of-the-month-felicia-hemans-and-letitia-elizabeth-landon/>)

Mary Robinson “London’s Summer Morning” (blank verse poem) pg 83

Felicia Dorothea Hemans (aka Mrs. Hemans) “The Homes of England” (is it sarcastic or serious?) pg 902-908

Letitia Elizabeth Landon (aka L.E.L.) “Sappho’s Song” or “Lines” pg 1045-1047

Anna Letitia Barbauld “*From* Eighteen Hundred and Eleven, a Poem” pg 754-755 and if time, “Rights of Woman” pg 48-49

1. How do we get a picture of London during the Romantic era through a poem?

“London’s Summer Morning” by Mary Robinson, “London” by Blake, “London 1802” by Wordsworth

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**STEP ONE**

Author:

Title:

Date written:

What is it about?:

What drew you to this writer and poem?:

Key points of poem:

1.

2.

3.

Purpose in writing this:

**STEP TWO:**

My Reaction to thesis (what it is about):

Specific things I liked (use direct quotes):

1.

2.

3.

Specific things I disliked (use direct quotes):

1.

2.

3.

Specific parts I was unsure about:

Vocabulary words I had to look up:

1.

2.

3.

**STEP THREE:**

Let’s put the pieces together. Based on your thoughts about the story/poem and your reactions to it, decide on your overall point (thesis) for your response essay. Then order the first paragraph into complete sentences. This will be your introduction:

Introduction

1. Identify text and author (TAG = Title, Author, Genre):
2. Brief summary of text:
3. How is author connected to Romantic period? What did he/she represent & how is it in this poem?
4. Your overall reaction to text:
5. My thesis:

(Sample: A key poem from the American Romantic era is Edgar Allan Poe’s “Annabel Lee” which develops the idea that love conquers all. From the beginning the highwayman and Bess are plotting to leave together. At the turning point, Bess sacrifices herself to save the Highwayman’s life. Eventually, the Highwayman and Bess continue to meet every night “when the moon is a ghostly gallon”. At first, I had trouble understanding this poem but after re-reading it, I began to appreciate it as a poem about the ultimate sacrifice a loved one was willing to do.)

You can do this part later. However, why stop now?

Body Paragraphs:

Paragraph 1/ Point 1

Paragraph 2/ Point 2

Paragraph 3 /Point 3

Conclusion/Brief recap

*I liked the way……….*

*The story was very fun to read because………….*

*The most important thing I learned from the story was………*

*The lesson I learned from the story was………*

*The author showed me………..*

*The character in the story was……….because………..*