

# Writing Assignment 1: Summary-Response

**Workshop Deadlines:** Workshop has two deadlines and both must be met.

- Post 1<sup>st</sup> draft of WA1 in D6 by 11:59 PM Monday March 4<sup>th</sup>
- Post peer-evaluation of WA1 in D6 by 11:59 PM Friday March 8<sup>th</sup>

**Final Draft Deadline:** **March 14<sup>th</sup> by 11:59 PM PST using electronic portal**

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**Purpose:** The purpose of this assignment is to familiarize students with the online library resources (Literature Resource Center) to which they have access; and to grant them additional practice in research, summarization, and secondary source analysis.

**Final Product Must Include:**

- **2 rhetorical précis summaries (one for each of your literary criticisms)**
- **2 single-paragraph responses to each of the “Response” prompts**
- **1 Works Cited page with full source citations**

**Prompt:** Summarize and respond to two different literary criticisms regarding *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger. To help you properly complete this assignment, please carefully follow the instructions noted below under Research Instructions, Summary, and Response.

Research Instructions: **Selecting Two Literary Criticisms**

- Access the Cuyamaca College online [Library](#), select [Research Databases](#), and scroll down to select the [Literature Resource Center](#).
- Enter your username and user password as directed.
- Once you have reached the Basic Search page, type *The Catcher in the Rye* in the search engine and click “Search.”
- Once you receive your results, make sure that the “Literary Criticisms” tab is highlighted at the top of the results list.
- Now, you must sift through various literary criticisms regarding *Catcher* and select two. Each must either give you a different understanding about some aspect of the novel, challenge your current views about the novel, **and/or** present something that you most disagree with and would like to refute (i.e. fallacies, unclear or false assumption made, underdeveloped or inconclusive argument presented...etc.).
- Once you have selected your literary criticisms, make sure to use the Tools option on the right-hand side of the page to email the article to yourself.

### Summary: Two Rhetorical Précis

- Use the . Rhetorical Précis instructional guide that we had previously practiced to devise a rhetorical précis for each of your literary criticisms (two total). As you devise a summary for each of your two sources, please do not deviate from the instructed and exemplified formula of the rhetorical précis. Remember that there should only be four sentences in your précis, and each sentence must identify the specified rhetorical information about the reading as instructed.

### Response: Two Responses

- After you have created your two rhetorical précis, write a paragraph response (150-300 words) for **each** literary criticism in which you do **one** of the following:

**R1** • Examine the idea(s) about *Catcher* that your select literary criticism makes you “rethink” and explain what new understanding this literary criticism gives you about the novel. Ask yourself in what ways this literary criticism challenges your current views about the novel.

**R2** • Examine the idea(s) inherent in this literary criticism about *Catcher* that you most disagree with and refute these assumptions/theories/claims with thorough explanations and support from the novel. Ask yourself, in what way(s) you disagree with this literary criticism (i.e. fallacies, unclear or false assumptions made, underdeveloped or unstable argument presented...etc.), and how you can bridge any gaps left within this person’s argument or provide an alternative perspective? Use the three-step rebuttal process: state the claim(s) made in the literary criticism, state what you specifically disagree with regarding said claim(s), and provide a counter-argument for each of your specific disagreements. Please refer to the [Refutation-Rebuttals](#) instructional web links in the Writing Assignment 1 learning module.

Please note that both types of responses must be used in this assignment, meaning that if you chose to respond to R1 for your first literary criticism, then you must respond to R2 for your second literary criticism response. Please also make sure that each response has a strong thesis in its brief introductory paragraph and a focused supporting argument that is thorough and clear in one or more short body paragraphs. Lastly, in your concluding paragraph, please also very briefly (in one or two sentences) indicate how J.D. Salinger would respond to this critique (meaning the literary criticism that you have chosen) of his story or his anti-hero.

**NOTE: Your work must be double-spaced, using MLA format, and you must have a Works Cited page at the end of your Summary-Response.**

## Grading Rubric:

### WA1 Point Value

Workshop	10 points
Rhetorical Précis	20 points
Responses	40 points
Syntax	15 points
Citations	15 points

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Total	100 points
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Required Elements: The following revising and editing checklist is my criteria for grading.

\_\_\_\_\_ Total of two concise four-sentence rhetorical précis, one for each literary criticism

\_\_\_\_\_ Total of two paragraph responses, one for each literary criticism

\_\_\_\_\_ A Works Cited page with 2-3 entries (one for each of the two literary criticisms and one for *Catcher*, if you choose to quote the latter directly)

*Be sure to have included the following in each of your précis:*

\_\_\_\_\_ Sentence 1 provides the name of the author, the genre (literary criticism) and title of the work with the date (in parentheses), a concise appropriate verb (claims, posits, argues, asserts) followed by a “that” phrase in which the thesis of the work is stated (either paraphrased, summed up, or quoted). Make sure to include a parenthetical citation after the borrowed passage, meaning that within parentheses, you must insert the author’s last name and the page number from which you gathered the passage. If your source does not have a page number, then post the paragraph number. i.e. (Jones 2) or (Jones par. 8)

\_\_\_\_\_ Sentence 2 provides an explanation of how the author goes about supporting his/her thesis. Remember that brevity is important; you will not restate the details from the work, but note the rhetorical method used by the writer to develop his/her supporting points followed by the supporting points themselves. Begin this sentence with, “[Insert author’s last name] supports his/her main claim by [insert rhetorical mode] [insert plan of development].” As for the rhetorical method that the author uses, please include one of the following patterns of organization (I have noted what each method aims to achieve): **narration** and **description** (modes whose primary purpose is stirring the reader's emotions); **exemplification**, **process**, **cause/effect**, **comparison/contrast**, **illustration**, **definition**, and **classification/division** (methods that help readers understand a subject, explore its functions, causes, consequences, relationships to other subjects, meaning, or nature); **argumentation** and **persuasion** (methods that seek to change readers' attitudes or actions with regard to specific subjects).

- \_\_\_\_\_ Sentence 3 states the general purpose of the piece (why is he/she writing this piece?) followed by an “in order to” phrase, and then an indication of what the author is hoping to inspire in the reader.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sentence 4 explains the author’s tone, intended audience, and possibly how the author positions him/herself with that audience.
- \_\_\_\_\_ An introduction for each “Response” that explicitly states your thesis and properly introduces the focus of your paragraph response in the topic sentence
- \_\_\_\_\_ A clear thesis statement that clearly identifies your focus and that includes a plan of development, if you have multiple supporting points
- \_\_\_\_\_ Convincing summarized, paraphrased, and directly quoted evidence that support your main point. Quotes or paraphrased passages (contextual support) must be directly relevant and should sufficiently illustrate your claim
- \_\_\_\_\_ Effective transitional words and/or phrases throughout your essay (First, Secondly, One way X is so, Additionally, Next, Conversely, for example, for instance...etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ A relevant conclusion that restates the thesis and plan of development to properly frame your essay and contains Salinger’s hypothetical response to the literary criticism

*Be sure your essay includes the proper use of borrowed material.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Correct integration and MLA citation of quoted, summarized, and/or paraphrased material (both in-text parenthetical citations and Works Cited source entries)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Triple E: Present the example, include the contextual evidence to support the example, and provide an explanation of how the contextual evidence supports the example, thereby your thesis.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do not place quotes back-to-back.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Introduce and/or establish the context of each quote first.
- \_\_\_\_\_ After each quote, explain the significance of your borrowed material to the thesis to make sure that your readers understand why you have used that source in your response.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Avoid beginning and ending your paragraphs with quotes; instead, begin your paragraphs with strong topic sentences and end them with muscular concluding remarks.

*Check for the following.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Careful and concise use of diction
- \_\_\_\_\_ Make sure to use the present tense.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Proper use of mechanics (grammar, punctuation marks, sentence structure...etc.)

*Eliminate the following.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Spelling errors
- \_\_\_\_\_ Run-ons
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fragments
- \_\_\_\_\_ Slang and clichés
- \_\_\_\_\_ Contractions
- \_\_\_\_\_ Personal pronouns, such as *you, your(s), yourself, me, I, mine, myself, we, us, our(s), and ourselves*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Repetition, especially at the beginning of nearby sentences
- \_\_\_\_\_ Vague words, such as *good, interesting, nice, hate, neat ...etc.*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pronoun Agreement errors
- \_\_\_\_\_ Subject-Verb Agreement errors
- \_\_\_\_\_ Punctuation errors, such as comma, semi-colon, quotation marks, apostrophes...etc.

*Finally, be sure you have included the following:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Correct use of commas, semi-colons, apostrophes, and quotation marks
- \_\_\_\_\_ A combination of sentence forms (simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parallel structure with parallel elements in a series (commas must separate three or more elements in a series)