

## Response Papers on Essays

You are required in HIST 431 to write response papers relating to essays in the anthology, *Thinking about the Great Plains*. These are rather similar to the response papers you write about lectures. A response paper **responds to the content of the essay**. It commonly consists of three paragraphs.

<b>Summary</b>	Briefly, summarize the important idea(s) of the essay. Get to the heart of it! What are you supposed to take away from it?
<b>Points of Interest</b>	Discuss what parts or aspects of the essay were most intriguing to you. These may be of interest because they relate to something else you have learned, because they pertain to your personal or professional interests, or just because you find them appealing.
<b>Points of Inquiry</b>	This is where you raise questions that are left hanging by the essay. What are the implications of the big idea(s) presented? What would you like to talk about in relation to them? (And indeed, this serves as an invitation to others to pick up on the questions you raise. If you provoke discussion, that's a good thing.)

Strive to write your responses in an informal, but **correct style**. It is OK to use first person, but be careful not to become self-indulgent; remember the essay is your subject, and when you express opinions, they should be directly pertinent. Here is a rubric for evaluation of your response papers on essays (10 points possible).

<b>Summary</b>	A good summary captures the important idea(s) of the author.	4
<b>Points of Interest &amp; Inquiry</b>	These should provide evidence of engagement with the material and reflection on its meaning.	4

<b>Appropriate Length</b>	Target length: 250-300 words	1
<b>Matters of Style</b>	Composition, grammar, and punctuation are important to communication.	1
<b>Points Possible</b>		<b>10</b>

Response papers are submitted via the designated forum on the HIST 431 Facebook page.

**Deadlines for response papers on essays: one week after conclusion of lecture with which they are assigned.**

You will receive the evaluation of your response paper as a Facebook message.