

## Response Papers on Lectures

You are required in HIST 431 to write response papers relating to lectures. So just what is a “response paper”? Well, don’t make it too complicated. A response paper is just **a short essay that responds to the content of the lecture**. Here are the elements in such an essay, which commonly consists of three paragraphs.

<b>Summary</b>	Briefly, summarize the intent and major points of the lecture. Get to the heart of it! What is the lecturer trying to accomplish here? What are you supposed to take away from it?
<b>Points of Interest</b>	Discuss what parts or aspects of the lecture 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 lecture. What seems important, but remains obscure to you? What do you wish had been included? What would you like to talk about in relation to the lecture? (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 lecture is your subject, and when you express opinions, they should be directly pertinent. Here is a rubric for evaluation of your response papers on lectures (10 points possible).

<b>Summary</b>	A good summary captures intent and major points 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 in the designated forum at the HIST 431 Facebook page.

**Deadlines for response papers on lectures: one week after conclusion of lecture in class.**

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