**Critical Reaction Review Checklist**

Use this checklist to examine your partner’s or your own critical reaction paper. You won’t have time to complete the checklist in class, so ask your partner to identify the component of the paper they want you to focus on.

The easiest part of the checklist is “grading” the essay as having or missing the component you are focused on. For example:

* Does it have a thesis and topic sentences?
* Does it have an introduction?

The more challenging part is:

* pointing to specific parts of the reaction paper that led you to determine that the reaction has or is missing that component
* *and* what the author needs to do to address the checklist item.

Annotate your partner’s essay to point out specific places where the component/criteria is present or absent and explain what you recommend the author does to further improve their essay.

You can see an example here for a component *not* listed in the rubric.

| **Component/Criteria** | **Present or****Absent (Explain)** | **Specific Steps for Further Development** | **Recommended Resources** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SAMPLE****Body paragraph structure** (each body includes the following: (1) Topic Sentence including reference to the Main Text, (2) Inclusion of supporting texts to strengthen the author’s response, (3) Elaboration or explanation of the author’s response to the main text, (4) Concluding sentence to transition to the following body paragraph | **SAMPLE**The author includes evidence from other texts but doesn’t fully explain how they support their critical reaction to the main text. The topic sentence isn’t as straightforward as it could be, so it’s hard to see the author’s response to the main text.  | **SAMPLE**I highlighted what I think the topic sentence should be and added a note in the annotations about how to make it clearer Review your outline to ensure that you have clear topic sentences and explain the support for each paragraph.Go to the writing center to work with a consultant to double-check your work and get help clarifying the topic sentences | **SAMPLE**Outline and Powerpoint from Class March 28thWriting Center Consultant |
| **Thesis and Topic Sentences** *(Thesis and topic sentences are present, clearly identifying the aspects of the reaction to be expanded in each body paragraph and introducing a novel or unique perspective in response to the central text)* |  |  |  |
| **Introduction** *(All components are present, hooking the reader in an engaging and straightforward way that explicitly introduces the central text and the author’s reaction to be expanded in each body paragraph. The introduction conveys a sense of importance about the topic of the reaction.)* |  |  |  |
| **Organization** *(Essay has a clear organization pattern with an introductory paragraph, body paragraphs, and conclusion that follow a logical flow. Within body paragraphs, the author uses signal phrases to help the reader understand the author’s reaction and how they are explaining it through their use of supporting texts)* |  |  |  |
| **Clarity** *(Organization and sentence structure all contribute to clarity so that the author’s reaction and the importance of responding to the central text are apparent throughout)* |  |  |  |
| **Use of Evidence (Supplemental Evidence)** *(Use of evidence to support author’s reaction is explained in detail. Evidence includes at least three supplemental sources that the author directly connects to the text)* |  |  |  |
| **Use of Evidence (Source Citation)** *(Use of evidence is cited using MLA and is sparing. Quotes are chosen with attention to how they support the author’s response to the central text. Paraphrases are used more frequently than quotes)* |  |  |  |
| **Conclusion** *(Conclusion wraps up the reaction by returning to summarize the thesis statement and briefly highlight the reaction’s main points. The reaction concludes with a significance statement answering the question “So What?” and helping the reader connect both the reaction and the central text to more significant issues in the world.)* |  |  |  |
| MLA and Academic Formality *(MLA style is used consistently and appropriately throughout, including in the header, title, and source citations. No issues with punctuation or grammar)* |  |  |  |