

Response Paper Outline Template

Introduction

- **Identify the source text**

In “[Title of the Text],” [Author’s Full Name] examines [general topic or issue].

- **Introduce the central topic**

The text addresses the issue of [key concept], focusing on how it affects [context, group, or outcome].

- **Brief, neutral summary of the main claim**

The author argues that [core argument stated objectively, without judgment].

- **Thesis statement (evaluation)**

This analysis argues that the author’s argument is [effective/partially effective/limited] because [brief reason tied to reasoning, evidence, or structure].

Summary of the Source

- **Restate the central argument**

The author’s main claim is that [paraphrased argument in your own words].

- **Highlight key points**

To support this position, the text outlines several key points, including [point one], [point two], and [point three].

- **Note the type of evidence used**

The argument relies primarily on [examples, data, theoretical reasoning, historical references, or case studies] to support its claims.

- **Maintain neutrality**

Throughout the text, the author develops the argument by explaining [process or logic], without explicitly addressing opposing views.

Analysis and Evaluation

- **Topic sentence (focus of paragraph)**

One of the strongest aspects of the author’s argument is [specific claim or strategy being evaluated].

- **Introduce evidence**

The author supports this point by stating that “[brief paraphrase or quoted idea].”

- **Explain how the evidence works**

This evidence functions to [clarify, justify, illustrate, or reinforce] the author's central claim.

- **Evaluate effectiveness**

This reasoning is effective because [logical consistency, relevance, clarity], though it is weakened by [gap, assumption, or limitation].

- **Link back to thesis**

As a result, this aspect of the argument supports the overall thesis by demonstrating [connection to evaluation].

(Repeat this structure for each analytical paragraph.)

Counterarguments or Limitations

- **Introduce an alternative view or limitation**

A potential limitation of the argument is that it does not fully address [counterargument or alternative interpretation].

- **Explain the author's response or lack thereof**

While the author briefly acknowledges this issue, it is not explored in depth.

- **Assess impact on argument**

This omission reduces the argument's overall persuasiveness by leaving [key concern] insufficiently resolved.

Conclusion

- **Restate thesis in new wording**

In conclusion, the author presents an argument that is [overall evaluation] in its treatment of [topic].

- **Summarize main evaluative points**

The analysis shows that the argument is strongest in [strength] and weakest in [limitation].

- **Final assessment of effectiveness**

Taken together, these elements suggest that the text succeeds in [primary goal], but falls short in fully addressing [remaining issue].