

RESPONSE WRITING JOURNAL: Non-fiction Summer Reading
English 9
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A Response Writing Journal (also known as a Dialectical Notebook) is a journal that allows for learning connections to be made between the source, in this case, a non-fiction magazine article, and the reader. These connections begin with selecting facts, ideas, quotes, and/or figures from the article and then examining them clearly using higher order thinking skills:

6. EVALUATION.....Did you like or dislike the article? Why? Do you agree or disagree with the article? Why? Can you pose any questions for the author or for the other readers of this article? Defend/Condemn a portion or issue from the article.

5. SYNTHESIS.....What individual sections or concepts from the article do you find particularly interesting, meaningful, useful, thought-provoking? Why? What questions are inspired by a particular part of the article? Can you make any predictions based on the article's content? Do you see any "cause and effect" relationship in the article? Where?

4. APPLICATION.....How will we be able to use this information in our world? Is it of any use/value to us?

3. ANALYSIS..... What will the content of this article mean to our world today, in the future?

2. COMPARISON.....is there something else in our world or the world this article's content can be compared to? To what other situation or issue is it similar? How is it different from any other issue or situation in today's world?

1. UNDERSTANDING.....what do I understand about this article? Facts? Quotes?

These kinds of questions are suggestions for what you can write in response to the magazine article(s) you choose to read this summer. They need not ALL be used, but you can use as many as you like in any single journal entry. The more you use, however, the better and stronger the learning connections you will be making between you and the article's information.

The response can be in the form of a narrative paragraph in which you share your ideas about each article. Each response entry should be dated and should extend to at least one handwritten page in length or ³/₄ page word-processed if you choose to use your computer. Be sure to write the NAME OF THE MAGAZINE (underlined), ITS DATE, ARTICLE TITLE (in quotation marks), ITS AUTHOR, and the DATE YOU WROTE THE JOURNAL ENTRY at the top of the written entry.

