

Types of Reader Response

In general, reader response is similar to a journal entry and about the length of 1-2 pages. After reading a story, responses are made to the story and can follow one of the following formats.

Initial Response: The first thoughts you have immediately following the reading of a piece of literature. This may include whether you liked or disliked the story and why. And, what it might have made you think about.

Affective Response: The feeling response. How the piece of literature made you feel. It is a delayed response and can occur several hours to several days in wait time before responding. It is introspective and needs time to develop. This response includes: I felt _____, I was happy, sad, etc. when _____, I laughed, cried, was depressed by _____. All responses are really affective responses.

Associative Response. A memory response. This is relating the text to personal experiences. Relate to people or experiences in your past. Use such leads as I remember _____, This reminds me of _____, and this brings back memories of _____.

Personal Response/Stance: This involves two personal intelligences. Interpersonal intelligence – the understanding of others. The question “What I learned about others?” is asked. Intrapersonal Intelligence – the understanding of self. The question “What did I learn about myself?” is asked.

Moral Response: This includes the ethics of justice and caring. Ask if actions in the text are right or wrong and explain why.

Gender Stance: How we relate to literature based on our gender. How is it processed? Are there differences? How and why are reactions to stories different based on gender?