**4th-term Polished Article Response**

This term you will choose one Monday article from the term to focus on in producing a really polished response. This response should reflect your mastery of the principles of strong writing that we have covered this year. It should be much more polished and complete than your in-class work and be two typed pages long (double-spaced).

* Your paper should respond to the specific article (rather than the topic in general).

\* It should refer to the article by name.

\* It should present a brief summary of the article’s main ideas.

\* It should include a few well-chosen quotes from the article.

* Your paper should respond to the article with *your own* ideas.

\* Your first paragraph should contain a thesis outlining your focus for the paper.

\* Your ideas should show independent thought. Don’t just summarize the article.

\* Your paper should include an appropriate title (not just the article’s title).

* Your paper should exhibit good organizational structure.

\* You should use paragraphs to break up and organize your ideas.

\* Your first paragraph should introduce the topic and your focus.

\* Your final paragraph should provide closure.

* Your paper should develop your main idea thoroughly.

\* Each body paragraph should develop a sub-topic connected to your thesis.

\* Topic sentences should clearly indicate the focus of each body paragraph.

\* Information from the article should be integrated with your ideas. Use quotes or

ideas from the article as support, as counterclaims, as jumping-off points, etc.

* Your paper should be polished, proofread, and in MLA format.

\* Take time to proofread for spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

\* Use a header with your name, the class name, your teacher’s name, and the date.

\* Format your paper with double-spaced, 12-point font and 1-inch margins.

**Due Date:** The deadline for submitting an on-time polished response to any given article is **two weeks** from the date we discuss the article in class.

**English 10 Grade Sheet: 4th-term Polished Article Response**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Category | Superior: 10 | Good: 9-8 | Developing: 7-6 | Not Yet: 5 |
| Connection to Reading | Your response skillfully and purposefully responds to the ideas in the assigned article by showing how your own ideas relate to and build upon the ideas from the article. It introduces the article by name, presents how the ideas in the article provide context for your own ideas, and includes at least 2 well-chosen and well-integrated quotes from the article. | Your response clearly connects to the ideas in the assigned article by introducing it by name, presenting its main ideas, and including at least 2 quotes from the article. | Your response briefly or superficially mentions the article. | Your response does not make a clear connection to the article. |
| Ideas | Your response shows a superior level of creative individual insight and critical reflection. Your unique position is presented in a focused thesis statement which provides clear direction for the paper. Your title appropriately suggests your focus. | Your response presents personal insights and reflections. These are presented in a thesis statement which provides direction for the paper. Your title suggests your focus. | Your response shows some evidence of personal reflection, but it does not include a clear thesis statement to direct the paper. | Your response shows little evidence of independent thought. It consists more of summary than of response. |
| Organization | Your paper demonstrates control and sophistication in organizing ideas to make a point. Your introduction is catchy and compelling. Each paragraph transitions smoothly. Your conclusion highlights the significance of your insights. | Your paper is clearly organized with clear introductory, body, and concluding paragraphs. Each body paragraph is introduced with a clear topic sentence. | Your paper exhibits rudimentary organization but is at times disjointed or lacking in direction. | Your paper lacks organization and cohesion. |
| Development | Your paper thoroughly develops your thesis by smoothly integrating ideas from the article with your own reflections. | Your paper develops your thesis and contains both ideas from the article and your own ideas. | Your paper presents a thin level of development. | Your paper is unaccountably brief or presents little development of ideas. |
| Presentation | Your response is professionally presented in MLA format with a superior level of eloquence and polish. | Your response is professionally presented in MLA format and has been proofread. | Your response is adequately presented with some errors or distractions in language use. | Your response is sloppy or hastily thrown together. |