**Polished Article Responses**

Each term you can prepare up to two polished responses to the articles we read in class on Mondays. These polished responses may build off what you wrote about in class. They may also take ideas from our class discussion and incorporate those. However, they should be more polished and complete than your in-class work. Papers should be 1–2 pages long.

* Your paper should respond to each article (rather than the topic in general). They should refer to it by name, present a brief summary of its main ideas, and include a few well-chosen quotes from the article.
* Your papers should with respond with *your own* ideas. While your response will be prompted by the ideas in the article, you should not simply summarize what you read. Rather you should extend the conversation by presenting your own points.
* Responses should follow principles of good paper organization.
  + They should open with an introduction that provides context for your response by introducing the article and its main ideas and then outlines the main direction of your position.
  + They should develop your ideas using topical paragraphs that exhibit organization of your thinking. You can do this by making new connections, challenging ideas, analyzing consequences, etc.
  + They should conclude with a sense of closure.
* Responses should be well-written. Take time to choose words that express your ideas articulately and to proofread.
* Responses should use MLA paper format. Your paper should be double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman font with 1” margins. It should include properly formatted MLA header and title information.

Due Dates:

The deadline for submitting a polished response to any given article is **two weeks** from the date we discuss the article in class.

**English 12 Grade Sheet: Polished Article Responses**

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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, presents its main ideas, and includes at least 2 quotes from the article. | Your response briefly or superficially mentions the assigned article. | Your response does not have a clear connection to the assigned 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 response presents personal insights and reflections. These are presented in a thesis statement which provides direction for the paper. | 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. |
| Presentation | Your response is professionally presented in MLA format with a superior level of organization, eloquence and polish. | Your response is professionally presented in MLA format, is clearly organized, and has been proofread. | Your response is adequately presented with some flaws in organization or some errors or distractions in language use. | Your response is sloppy or hastily thrown together. |