

CSS/FOR 235 – Society and Natural Resources

Reading Response Assignment (20 points each)

During this semester you will be asked to write four one-page response papers to several assigned readings. Each response paper is worth 20 points toward your course grade.

What is a response paper?

A response paper in this course will include three components:

1. A concise summary of the reading and the key points that were developed
2. Your own thoughts, insights, reactions, counter-arguments, and/or beliefs about the story, information and/or ideas presented in the reading, and
3. An analysis of how the reading illustrates, fits in with, or may be counter to recent discussions and lectures in class; and, if appropriate, potential sustainable solutions to a problem highlighted by the reading

A response is, in other words, partly a summary of the reading and partly a record of your thoughts, reactions and insights into the reading and how it relates to our class.

Format

1. **Your response should consist of three paragraphs.** The first paragraph is the summary of the reading; the second paragraph is your response; the third paragraph is the analysis of how the reading relates to the context of the class.
2. All papers must be typed and printed. Take your response paper with you to your discussion group meeting on the day it is due and give it to your discussion group leader. Be ready to discuss your papers with your classmates.
3. The response paper should be no longer than **TWO** pages (we won't read beyond the second page), **DOUBLE** spaced. Use a 12-point font and one-inch margins all the way around.
4. At the top of the page write your name, the discussion group you are in, your discussion group leader's name, and a full citation of the reading. If you need help in formatting the citation, go to the writing assignments page of our course website and click on either of the two links toward the bottom of the page that have examples of how to cite sources.
5. Response papers should be written using a professional style. That is, you must use whole sentences, proper spelling and good grammar. You should avoid using slang or colloquial language. Obviously, with only one page and three paragraphs you will need to be clear and concise. But you will also need to include enough information to demonstrate that you have read and understood the reading and thought about your response.
6. Be sure to use the spell-checker on your computer and if you generally have trouble writing, be sure to visit the writing center or have another person who writes well check your work.

Grading

You will be graded on whether or not you completed the assignment, how well you followed the instructions, how thoughtfully you responded to the reading, and on the connections you identified between that particular reading and the other ideas and information presented and discussed in the course. Clarity, whole sentences, and proper English all count too.