

TIPS ON RESPONDING TO READINGS

- 1) A response is your **structured reaction** to a reading. A response gives you the opportunity to respond to the ideas put forth by the authors of the piece you read. Responses are important because they form the most fundamental kind of communication in college. For you, however, and perhaps most importantly, they can also be useful to begin your essays.
- 2) To respond to a reading is not the same as summarizing a reading. You will need to include in your response a summary of the reading's main point and a summary of the specific part to which you are responding. However, a response requires that you **formulate your own ideas** in relation to the ideas presented in a reading.
- 3) To respond to a reading is to expand and speculate on the ideas about which you read. Accordingly, there must be an **obvious connection** between the ideas in your response and the ideas originally expressed in the selection to which you are responding. Here are some of the