**Responding to Literature**

1. A paper that responds to literature usually includes some summary; however, a writer’s own views about the literature are also needed, as well as analysis, evaluation, and/or interpretation.
2. A paper about literature should have a clear structure, including an introduction, a thesis statement, body paragraphs, and a conclusion.
3. A thesis should state an author’s opinion about a work of literature, so the thesis should not be a quotation, a paraphrase, or a summary of someone else’s ideas.
4. A thesis in a response paper should be supported with quotations from the work of literature, details from the literature, and quotations/summaries/paraphrases from critical sources.

5. When borrowing ideas or words from critics, from Internet sources, and even from one’s friends, a writer must use correct documentation, including a citation and a Works Cited entry.

6.Wherever possible, present tense verbs should be used.

7. DO NOT USE 1st PERSON!!!!! DO NOT SAY “I” “ME” “WE” “YOU” “US”

**Questions for Analysis of Literature**

**Plot and Structure**

1.What happens in the story, play, or poem?

2.What kind(s) of conflict are in the work of literature?

3.What do the different parts of the literature contribute to the whole structure?

Setting

1.When and where did the story take place?

2.Are there historical or cultural events that happened at the same time or place as the story?

3.Is the author of the literature making connections between the literary work and real-life?

**Tone**

1.What is theauthor’s attitude toward the subject area?

2.How does the tone affect the meaning of the literature?

**Character**

1.Which character does the reader most closely identify with? Is this character the protagonist. Is there an antagonist.

2.Character evaluation might include the use of adjectives, such as “flat,” “stale,” “round,” and

“stereotypical.”

3. What are the motives for one or more of the characters’ actions?

4. How are the characters interacting with each other and with their environment?

5.Do you see any changes in the characters’ actions, motivations, and/or interactions?

**Theme**

1.What is the thesis or main point of the literature?

2.What is the work of literature saying about humanity, the world, and/or some event?

3.What is the meaning of the literature? How do the other parts (plot, setting, characters, diction, etc.) connect to the meaning?

4.To discover a theme, a writer can begin by stating one of the subject areas that the literature is commenting on (for example: freedom); then, the writer can explain what the work of literature is saying about that subject area (for example: all people should be free.).

5.Is there a moral or a lesson that the author communicates through the work of literature?

6.What does the title suggest about the theme of the

story, poem, or play?

**Diction and Style**

1.What kinds of words are being used? (for example: formal, informal, slang, or childish)

2.What kinds of words might a different author use?

**Images and Symbols**

1.What pictures does a reader create while reading the work

of literature?

2.Where in the literature does a reader create these pictures?

3.What characters or objects are symbolic (stand for other things)? For example, a rose may

stand for love, and a thorn may stand for a painful aspect of love.

4.What do the images in the work of literature suggest to a reader?

**Dramatic Performance of Literature**

1.What verbal and nonverbal cues do the characters convey?

2.Do you agree or disagree with any parts of the director’s interpretation of the literary work?

3.How does a performance compare with a written version of the literature?