Response to Literature

When responding to a prompt, use what you've learned from your reading, writing your response to literature, and studying the rubric on page 352. Use the steps below to develop a response to the following prompt.

Writing Prompt

Write a response to literature in which you evaluate a book or literary selection that you know well. Your response should encourage your audience—fellow students—to either read or not read the work. Provide details from the literature to support your opinions.

Study the Prompt

Read the prompt carefully, and identify all parts of your task. You must choose a book or other literary selection for your response. Your **response** must make your **opinions** clear. It must also provide several **details** from the work to support your opinions.

Tip: Spend about five minutes studying the prompt.

Plan Your Response

First, think of some books, stories, or poems that you have read recently. Then, choose the piece of literature that you know best. Once you have settled on your subject, jot down the following:

- the work's title, author, genre (novel, short story, poem) and the date of publication
- your reactions to the work
- what your readers need to know about the work

Your response will state your overall opinion of the work, but because your time is limited, you may want to focus on one or two elements that support your opinion. For example, if you thought the selection was depressing, you might focus on the author's use of gloomy images or settings.

Tip: Spend about ten minutes planning your response.

Respond to the Prompt

Using the notes you've just made, draft your response to literature. It may help to follow these guidelines:

- In the introduction, get your readers' attention with an engaging opening. Provide the title, author, and type of work; the basic situation; and your general reaction to the work.
- In the body of your response, use examples and short quotations to support your opinions.
- In the conclusion, anticipate and answer readers' questions and say whether you recommend the work. **Tip:** Spend about twenty minutes writing your draft.

Improve Your Response

Revising Go back to the key aspects of the prompt. Did you identify the work? Did you state your opinion clearly? Did you provide details?

Proofreading Take a few minutes to proofread your response to correct errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. Make sure all your edits are neat, and erase any stray marks.

Checking Your Final Copy Before you turn in your response, read it one last time to catch any errors you may have missed. You'll be happy you made the extra effort. **Tip:** Save ten minutes to improve your response.

Differentiating Instruction

English-Language Learners

Before students begin planning their responses, make sure that they understand the meanings of the key terms they will be reading—*opinions, details, title, author, genre,* and *date of publication.* You may wish to assign a particular literary work and hold a discussion of its key elements before students plan their responses.

Writers Gaining Proficiency

Students may benefit from going online and reading other people's reviews or responses to a particular work of literature. Tell students to notice how the online writers organized their reviews.

Standards Focus

Objectives

Students will

- write responses to literature
- evaluate a book or literary selection
- offer recommendations

Direct Teach

Guided Practice

Study the Prompt

Before students begin writing, encourage them to answer the following questions:

1. What is my time limit?
2. What are the key skills assessed in the scoring rubric?
3. Who is my audience?
4. What is my purpose?

Plan Your Response

Tell students that the scoring rubric emphasizes the importance of offering a clear thesis and maintaining a consistent focus. Remind students that each paragraph in the body of their responses should focus on one element of the literary work.

Improve Your Response

Make sure students understand that the scoring rubric emphasizes the importance of offering thoughtful insights into a literary work. Remind students that there is not only one correct interpretation of a literary work. Students must provide a unique view of the work and support it.

Assess

Use the rubric on p. 352 to assess students' essays.