

WRITE Institute

Scoring Guide for Response to Literature

A response to literature interprets some aspect of a literary work. The writer of the essay supports a clear thesis statement through specific examples from the text. Typically, writers support a universal theme (good vs. evil, individuality vs. conformity, sacrifice, coming-of-age) by focusing on a literary device (i.e., characterization, symbolism, imagery, or figurative language).

Scoring Range

Each category is worth 0-6 points.

0 = off topic/no evidence	4 = proficient
1 = minimal evidence of proficiency	5 = exceeding expectations
2 = some evidence of proficiency, but weak	6 = outstanding
3 = developing proficiency	

Directions: Total points and divide by 10 to yield a score of 0-6.

CONTENT & ORGANIZATION

- _____ The introduction includes the title, author, thesis and summary of the text.
- _____ The introduction includes a thesis statement that provides a specific interpretation of the literary work (i.e., theme).
- _____ The introduction includes a brief summary of the text. (1-2 sentences).
- _____ The essay provides an understanding of the literary work as a whole.
- _____ The topic sentences support the interpretation (i.e., theme).
- _____ The writer makes inferences about the author's purpose.
- _____ The writer paraphrases and quotes in order to avoid plagiarism.
- _____ The essay concludes with a summary of the interpretation, a commentary and/or a reflection.
- _____ The essay exhibits a coherent and logical organization.
- _____ The writer uses an appropriate level of conventions such as sentence structure, grammar and mechanics.

_____ **Total** (divided by 10) = _____ **Score**

Notes to the teacher:

- Review instructional implications.
- Direct student reflections. (My abilities are...I am going to focus on improving...)
- Isolate elements of structure from writer's first or second language.