

Personal Response to Text – Hybrid Approach (Analytical & Personal)

When writing a personal response to text, you may respond using a personal, creative, or analytical perspective. You may also respond using a combination of these perspectives – a hybrid approach.

Paragraph One – Introduction (at least three sentences)

- **Universal Appeal:** Present the topic to your reader through a quotation, a definition, a general statement, or an effective, thought-provoking question
- **Hint at Body Paragraph Content** – Introduce genre, title, and author of text, as well as (briefly) your personal experience. You may want to suggest something such as, “Just as the narrator in Grimm’s short story, Cinderella” felt slighted by family, I, too have experienced . . .”
- **Thesis Statement** – The **general truth about life with a narrowed focus** that you have crafted in response to the question asked, forms your thesis statement.

Paragraph Two – Body Paragraph One: Discussion of Text (at least eight sentences: NEXT)

- **New idea** - provide a topic sentence for the paragraph that is related to your thesis statement
- **Evidence** - provide evidence in the form of a strong quotation or paraphrase from the text to support your thesis statement
- **eXplanation** - explain how the detail you have chosen proves your thesis to be true
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- **Transition** - provide a transition from this paragraph to the next

Paragraph Three – Body Paragraph Two: Presentation of Personal Example (at least eight sentences)

- **New idea** - provide a topic sentence for the paragraph that is related to your thesis statement
- **Evidence** - provide evidence from your experience to support your thesis statement
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- ***If your “story” is better told by presenting the experience (the evidence) first, and then explaining it, structure this paragraph in that manner. You should still have at least six sentences in this section in order to fully explain your personal example.***
- **Transition** - provide a transition from this paragraph to the next

Paragraph Four – Conclusion (at least three sentences)

- **Thesis Statement** – Re-word the idea (thesis) you have proven in your response.
- **Summarize Your Proof** – Summarize what you discussed about the text and your experience.
- **Universal Appeal** – The details in your universal appeal **MUST** relate to the ideas you have explored in the two body paragraphs. The details that are presented here must show that the idea you just developed in this response has significance and purpose outside of your response: it should live and breathe in the real world, in the here and now. You are leaving a powerful set of statements to end your argument, appealing to your reader. A strong technique, that creates unity in your response, is to go back to the technique you used to open, and end using that same technique – quotation, definition, etc.