

Reading Response Options • American Democracy • Mr. Bisson

Your textbook is a valuable resource from which you can learn in many ways. It fills in the gaps that we miss in class, provides background information and key terms, and has charts and pictures. As such, you will be using your textbook for homework and individual research. You may leave it at home unless asked to bring it to class. Often I will assign a Reading Response for a section in the book as homework. First read all of the assigned material. Then, and for the sake of variety, choose one of the following four options and write your response. By the end of the semester, you will have used each of them four times and one of them five times. I suggest that you rotate them so you do not get stuck doing something you do not like four times in a row.

Option #1: Reading Log

In writing, react to what you have read. What did you learn from the reading that we did not study in class? What do you think about what you read? What are questions you have about the reading? How does this connect with the history and operation of the American government? How does this connect with what we have learned in class? (There is no steadfast rule for how long this must be, but a good rule to use is one page of writing per five pages of reading.)

Option #2: Visualizations

Produce a series of quality drawings or cartoons that illustrates key ideas from the text. On each visual, you must write a detailed description of what the image represents including information from the reading. You should use color and produce enough visualizations to capture the essence of the readings.

Option #3: Outlined Notes

Outline the assigned pages so that you can easily review the main points and key vocabulary. This can be a bulleted list, a Roman numeral outline, or a series of incomplete sentences, whatever will be helpful for you to study later on. It must, however, contain facts, definitions, and summaries.

Option #4: Audio Log

Do Option #1 on an audiocassette tape. Make sure you cue the tape to where you started for each assignment and do not cover up previous Audio Logs with new ones. Do not record while reading the text for the first time. Instead, read first and then record your response.

Some Dos and Don'ts...

<u>Do</u>	<u>Don't</u>
✓ Read the chapter summary first	✗ Plagiarize the text or a classmate's work
✓ Skim the section first, looking at pictures and charts, then begin to read	✗ Ignore the assignment
✓ Read carefully and thoroughly	✗ Turn in a copy of the section summaries
✓ Focus on what you don't know	✗ Draw stick figures or images that do not relate to the reading
✓ Read sections multiple times	✗ Ramble on about minor details
✓ Look closely at pictures, charts, diagrams	✗ Do the work simply for points—make sure you also learn the material
✓ Read the captions	
✓ Put your responses in your own words	
✓ Choose a variety of Reading Responses	