Evidence-Based Writing

Writing a Response to Literature

What is a Response to Literature?

* This is writing that is **based on evidence from the text**.
	+ Let the text determine the argument! Fit the argument to the text, not vice versa.
* Writing should be **focused** & follow **a logical pattern**
	+ In other words, you should consider what arguments you make, and the order in which you make them!
* Has 3 main parts: Introduction, Body Paragraphs, & Conclusion.
* Basically, you will take what you’ve learned about writing paragraphs, and expand it.

**Introduction**

* Hook
* Transition from Hook to topic
* TAG (title, author, genre)
	+ Clues the reader into what the piece will be about
* Summary
	+ Aim for 2-3 sentences
	+ Brief few sentences that make general statements about the text & what you are going to argue about it.
* Claim
	+ Final sentence in the introduction
	+ Should directly answer the prompt--but you do not need to say *why*

**Body Paragraphs**

* Premise #1
	+ 1st sentence of each body paragraph
	+ 1 reason that supports your claim
	+ Often is 1 sentence, may be more
	+ Different premise for each body paragraph
* Introduction to Evidence (ICE your quote!)
	+ Prevents you from just “dropping” a quote into writing
	+ Here students “set the scene” for the quote
	+ “The author states…” “The author argues…”
	+ ICE your quote
		- **I**ntroduce
		- **C**ite--Cite the evidence correctly (MLA format)
		- **E**xplain
* Evidence
	+ Find the ***“right”*** evidence
	+ Find the ***“best”*** evidence
* Justification
	+ This is the “meat” of the essay.
	+ Here you “justify” your thinking.
		- There are 2 parts
			* Explain how the quote supports the premise
			* Explain how the premise & the quote support the claim

**Conclusion**

* Restate Claim
	+ Rewrite it using different words, not verbatim
* Summarize Evidence
	+ Remind readers of your premises.
	+ No new evidence provided here.
	+ 1 sentence per premise
* Concluding thought
	+ “Mic drop” sentence