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