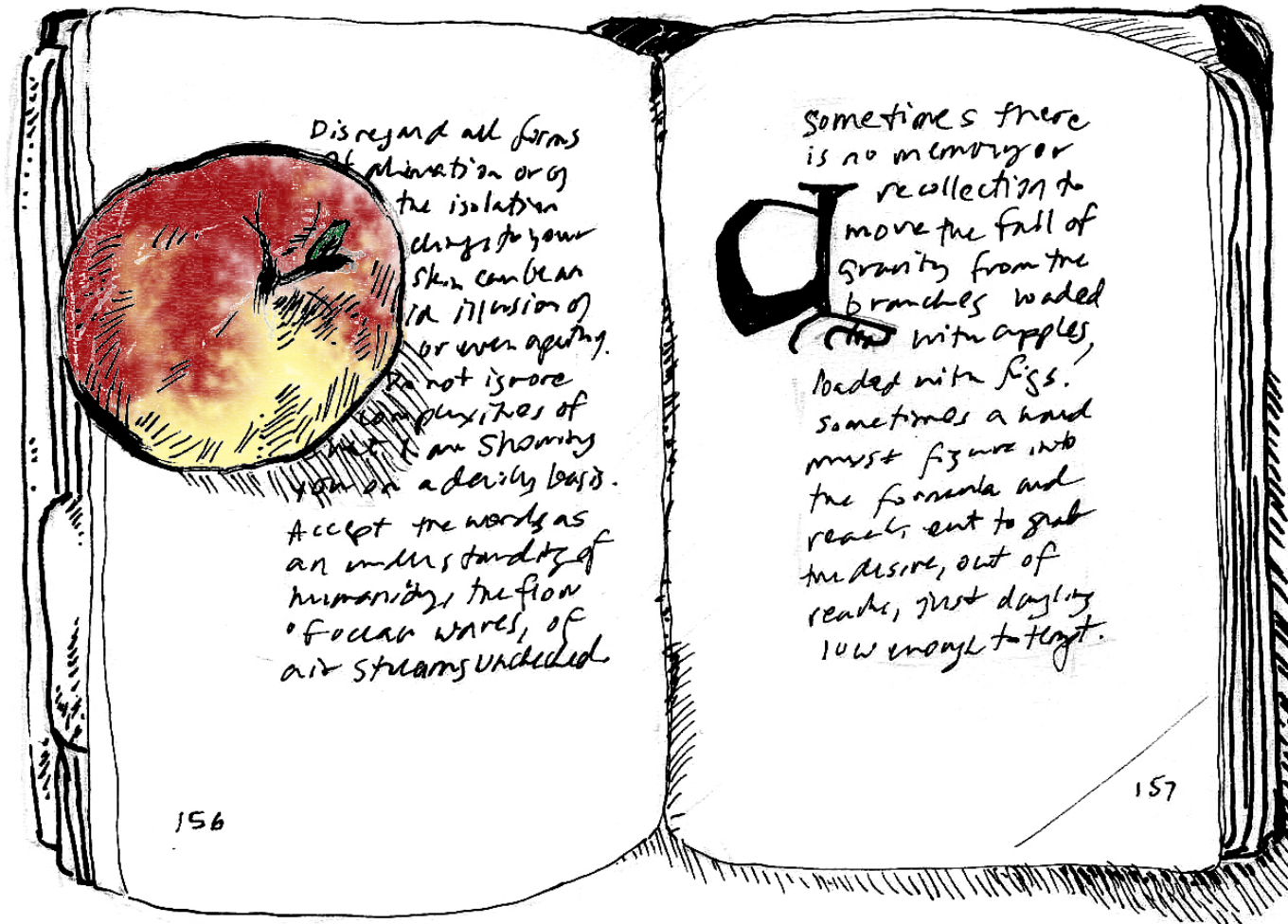


Academic Essays



Three Levels of Response

In a general sense, there are three basic modes of communication.

Colloquial

Informal Critique

Formal Research

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Colloquial

'I' voice

Common slang terms

1-2 sentences

emotional review

Informal Critique

First/Second/Third person

I You He, She, It, ...

Common vocabulary

2-3 sentences

emotional/analytical

Formal Research

Only Third person

He, She, It, One ...

Academic vocabulary

5 or more sentences

analytical/logical defense

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Colloquial

'I' voice

Common slang terms

1-2 sentences

emotional review

Amazon / Youtube
commentary

reactionary trolls

Informal Critique

First/Second/Third person

I You He, She, It, ...

Common vocabulary

2-3 sentences

emotional/analytical

Critical reading/personal essay
talking directly to general public

book/movie reviewers

Formal Research

Only Third person

He, She, It, One ...

Academic vocabulary

5 or more sentences

analytical/logical defense

Formal academic paragraph
addressing literary audience

professors/critics
other students

Kafka, Franz. *The Metamorphosis and Other Stories*. Donna Freed, trans. New York: Barnes & Noble, Inc. 1996. Print.

Three Levels of Response

Some quick examples:

Colloquial

This story sucks. B-o-r-i-n-g! I hated every page. Can't believe we had to read this in class. The author is a complete idiot. What is the point? And the characters!

Informal Critique

Formal Research

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I can't relate to the protagonist for some reason. Her passive actions irritate me because I would never put myself in these types of situations. Difficult to see Hawthorne's point in this short story.

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Formal Research

For a reader never exposed to Nathaniel Hawthorne, his female characters may come across rather passive and stereotypical of the time period they were written. One finds it hard to feel sympathy towards an extremely submissive character if proper motivation is not shown, especially on a first reading. However, after a second and possible third reading, the reader can discover subtle clues for character motivations and hesitation in key scenes. For instance, in "The Birthmark," Hawthorne displays Georgiana as a somewhat independent-thinking individual

...

Response Essays

For class you will construct a series of **Personal Response Essays.**

A typical response essay falls somewhere between an informal critique paper and a formal research project.

- your personal, emotional reaction to the text is shown
- you are seeking beginning observations that may later help develop a paper
- with a critical eye, you begin an analytical approach to reading assignments
- some outside research is encouraged, but not required
- typically these should only be one page, two-three paragraphs
- you are proving to the instructor you read the assignment with an in-depth approach for future discussions in class

Critical Response Paper

A *Critical Response* entails synthesizing your observations with in-depth analysis and research.

These of course fall into the category of Formal Research.

- no use of personal pronouns, no emotional reactions
- as a critic you will be utilizing both primary resources (the story or poem) and secondary resources (academic critical theories, essays)
- all body paragraphs are required to have at least one quote for defense

Critical Defense

Body Paragraphs

Typically body paragraphs consist of five or more sentences.

- 1. Topic Sentence:** Introduces new observation regarding thesis statement
- 2. Secondary Evidence Sentence:** Clarify new observation; embellish point
- 3. SES 2:** Signal, then state example of defense: quote or paraphrase
- 4. SES 3:** Confirm material / Interpret findings / Explain quotation
(This section alone can use three or more sentences.)
- 5. Conclusion Sentence:** End with major point regarding topic sentence;
wrap up subject