Choose one of the essays from your textbook. You will write a summary paragraph and a response paragraph to that essay. Consider your audience to be someone who has not read the essay but is interested in these ideas.

**SUMMARY PARAGRAPH:** Write a well-developed summary paragraph (at least 8, but no more than about 12 sentences)

1. Your first sentence (topic sentence) should include the title, the author, and the main idea (stated in your own words). For example: *In his essay, “What Is Intelligence, Anyway?,” Isaac Asimov asserts that there are many different types of intelligence, not just the one measured by standardized tests.*
2. State the main supporting points.
3. Show how the writer supports the main points (Example: What examples does the author provide for the main points?). Find one quote (two maximum) from the essay that you can integrate into your summary. Carefully integrate quotes with signal phrases and put a page number at the end of the sentence.
4. Write a concluding sentence that sums up the writer’s conclusion. What does the writer make at the end? Your last sentence should be written in your own words. Do not end with a quotation.
5. Note: when you refer to the author, use the full name once, then only the last name after that. You may alternate between the last name, the appropriate s/he pronoun, and “the author” or “the writer.” It’s important that you make clear whose opinion (the author’s) is being expressed.

**RESPONSE PARAGRAPH:** Now it’s time for your opinion. Write a well-developed paragraph (approx.10-12 sentences) that responds in some way to the essay you’ve summarized. Use personal experience or testimony, or express your own thoughts on the issue discussed in the essay.

1. Write a topic sentence that:
   - Provides a smooth transition between the summary paragraph and your response paragraph. This will help the reader understand when your writing moves from the summary of someone else’s ideas to your own ideas in response.
   - Provides a focus for this paragraph.
2. Develop your response to one of the above essays in the body of your paragraph. Ideas for your response: (1) respond to the writing prompts that accompany each essay or, (2) come up with your own idea. Find a way to connect personally, either through opinion or through past experiences, with the essay.
3. Write a concluding sentence: Summarize the writer’s conclusion in your own words.

Purpose of these assignments: Summarizing and responding is a useful skill that will help you build critical thinking in addition to a more polished voice as a writer. At the final exam, I will provide an essay for you to read and then summarize and respond to as you’ve done in class with these less formal practices.