ASSIGNMENT: Choose one of the essays from MODELS that you've read and connected with so far this term. In Essay #2, you'll be building on the skills you've practiced in your summary/response paragraph writing. For a good essay to model this response writing form, please read and study the response essay example in our text, pages 62 - 66. Plan to write a 3 – 4 page essay (800 words required; include a word count in your header) based on your response to the essay (from MODELS) of your choice.

TOPIC CHOICES: Choose one of the essays we’ve read so far this term OR find an essay in the book with a topic that deeply interests you. Consider skimming the “Thematic Contents” on pp. xi -xx in your text to help you decide on an essay.

PREWRITE:
- Read the “For Your Journal” section right before your essay. Use one of those questions to help you develop your thinking.
- Think of whether you agree or disagree with the author’s main point. What examples could you provide to support your opinion?
- What personal connections do you make to this essay, and what point would you make about those connections?
- Brainstorm, ask questions, web, freewrite, use a combination of strategies to develop your feelings and ideas about this essay.

THESIS STATEMENT: Formulating a thesis statement: Each response paragraph that you have written this term began with a sentence that focused your response. Similarly, in this assignment, you will need to formulate a thesis statement that focuses the main point of your response, the point that you want to make through this essay. In MODELS, the authors state, “The thesis statement determines the content of the essay: Everything that the writer says must be logically related to the thesis statement” (71). For more information on thesis statements, read pp.71 -73 in your text. Formulate a tentative thesis statement to help guide you through your developing and shaping.

SHAPING: as you develop your ideas, make sure that you have all of the following components in your outline and draft:
- Compose a beginning paragraph, patterned after one of the examples from MODELS (p 137 -145) or some other introduction strategy that focuses your response and draws your readers in.
- Introduce your main point in a thesis statement. Look at the first paragraph on p.61 for an example of a paragraph that includes the thesis statement at the end of the paragraph.
- Include a brief (5-7 sentences) summary paragraph of the essay you are responding to. This paragraph should include: 1) a transition sentence (first sentence) that ties this summary of an essay to your thesis statement 2) the major points the author makes in the essay
- Write one or more paragraphs explaining the first supporting point for your thesis.
- Write one or more paragraphs explaining the second supporting point for your thesis.
- And so on. Each supporting point for your thesis should be fully developed in at least one paragraph and clearly connected to your thesis.
- Write an ending paragraph. Consider this advice from the authors of Models: “An effective ending does more than simply indicate where the writer stopped writing. A conclusion may summarize; may inspire the reader to further thought or even action; may return to the beginning by repeating key words, phrases, or ideas; or may surprise the reader by providing a particularly convincing example to support a thesis” (137).