WR 115
Summary and Response Writing

DIRECTIONS: Please write two well developed paragraphs, one summary and one response to one of the following essays: “I Have a Dream” by Martin Luther King; The Barrio,” by Robert Ramirez; “The Jacket,” by Gary Soto. Consider your audience to be someone who has not read the essay but is interested in these ideas.

Writing Process: As with all writing, you’ll need to follow the process that works best for you. Allow yourself time to prewrite (brainstorm, develop ideas, outline), to draft, and to revise and edit.

Please word process (12 point font) and double space your final revised draft. Label both the Summary paragraph and the Response paragraph. You do not need to turn in any outlines or rough drafts.

PARAGRAPH #1 -- Summary: Write a well developed summary paragraph (10-12 sentences). Remember to structure your summary paragraph in the following way:
• Introduce by stating the title, the author, and the main idea in your own words.
• State the main supporting points, showing how the writer supports the main points. (Here you may want to use quotations from the text.)
• Don’t forget your conclusion for paragraph #1.

PARAGRAPH #2 – Response: Write a well developed response paragraph (10-12 sentences). Follow this structure:
• Write a topic sentence that 1) provides a smooth transition between the summary and your response and 2) provides focus for this paragraph.
• Choose from the following questions which refers to the essay you’ve summarized for your response:
  1. “Dream”: Identify and describe a situation that you consider an injustice (for example, unfairness to any minority, or to women, children, the elderly, the disabled, the poor). Narrow your subject to a particular incident as you describe this injustice.
  2. “Jacket”: Identify and describe an article of clothing that is or once was important to you. Describe the emotions that you experience when you wear it. Conclude your paragraph by making a connection between your identity and clothes.
  3. “The Barrio”: Identify and describe a “neighborhood” of your own growing up (or a more recent one, perhaps the one where you now live). Use figurative language in your description.
• Remember your conclusion statement.