WR115 : Summary and Response Paragraph Assignment

Please write two well developed paragraphs, one summary and one response in response to one of the following essays: “Superman and Me,” (handout) “Becoming a Writer,” p 199, “What’s in a Name,” p 325. 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 (10-12 sentences).
Structure your summary paragraph in the following way:

1. **Topic Sentence**: Introduce by stating the title, the author, and the main idea in your own words. For example: *In his essay “Superman and Me,” Sherman Alexie illustrates the importance of reading in all our lives.*
2. State the main supporting points.
3. Show how the writer supports the main points. (Here you may want to use quotations from the text.)
4. Remember your conclusion statement.

Response Paragraph: Write a well developed paragraph (10-12 sentences) in response to the essay you’ve summarized.
Structure your response paragraph in the following way:

1. Write a topic sentence that
   - Provides a smooth transition between the summary paragraph and your response paragraph. This will ensure that your reader understands when your writing moves from the summary of someone else’s ideas to your own ideas in response.
   - Provides focus for this paragraph.
     Choose one of the following questions to guide your response. (You may compose a question of your own to respond to. What is important here is that you have a focus for your response paragraph.)
     ✓ “Name”: Write a paragraph about your name and the way it helps or fails to help you present yourself to the world. Develop your paragraph by narrating a short example of a time when it helped or hindered.
     ✓ “Superman and Me”: How important is reading to you now? Narrate a recent instance that demonstrates either a positive or a negative experience with reading as you focus your response on the importance (or lack of importance) you place on reading now.
     ✓ “Becoming a Writer”: Write a paragraph about a time when you discovered an interest and an aptitude in some new activity, skill, or talent because you decided to do it “for yourself.”
2. Develop your response to the source essay in the body of your paragraph.
3. Remember your conclusion statement.