The Assignment: Choose one of the following essays: “Shame” (Dick Gregory, p. 279), “The Ways of Meeting Oppression” (Martin Luther King, p. 132), “Shame is Worth a Try” (Dan M. Kahan, p. 571), or “The Jacket” (Gary Soto, p. 312). 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 point does the writer make at the end? Your last sentence should be written in your own words. Do not end with a quotation.

**RESPONSE PARAGRAPH:** Write a well-developed paragraph (approx. 10-12 sentences) that responds in some way to the essay you’ve summarized.

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.
   - You have a number of possibilities for your response: (1) respond to the writing prompts in the “For Your Journal” section before each essay, (2) come up with your own idea, or (3) try one of the following writing prompts:
     - **“The Jacket”:**
       - Have you ever had a piece of clothing that was symbolic for you in the way the green coat was symbolic for Gary Soto? Explain.
       - Has there been a time when you judged other people by the clothes (or other items) they wore? Analyze how that affected your relationships with other people.
       - Has there been a time when you observed an individual or group being judged or stereotyped by what they wore? Explain how that affected both the people being judged and the people doing the judging.
     - **“The Ways of Meeting Oppression”:**
• Has there been a time in your life when you have witnessed or experienced prejudice or unfairness? Reflect on the significance of that event in your life.
• Has there been a time in your life when you felt compelled to speak up against prejudice or unfairness? Reflect on the significance of that event in your life.

• “Shame”:
  • Is there a time you recall when you have felt different from others or an “outsider”? How did that experience shape your feelings about yourself then and now?
  • Your text states, “We all learn many things in school beyond the lessons we study formally” (245). Describe one such “lesson” and analyze how that lesson affected you then and now.

• “Shame Is Worth a Try”
  • Is there a time you remember being shamed for bad behavior? Relate that incident and reflect on how that experience affected you.
  • Do you agree or disagree with Kahan that “shame is worth a try”? Explain your position using a specific example or incident that you experienced or observed.

3. Write a concluding sentence: Summarize the writer’s conclusion in your own words.

CHECKLIST FOR FINAL FOLDER:

_______ 1. Writing Exercise #6
_______ 2. First draft of summary and response
_______ 3. Final draft of summary and response
_______ 4. Writer’s Reflection: In at least ½ page (typed!), reflect on the following:
  • Describe the process you went through to write this paper.
  • Describe any problems you had as you wrote either the summary or the response. How did you solve these problems?
  • Contrast your experience writing this summary/response with the experience you had writing Summary/Response #1. What did you do differently or the same?
  • Evaluate how comfortable you are at this point writing a summary and a response. What do you find especially challenging about summarizing?
  • If you were to revise this summary/response, what would you change?