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## WRITING A REACTION PIECE

Writing a reaction piece simply requires you to record your reaction or response to something you have read, or viewed, or listened to. The format of the reaction piece varies, depending on what your lecturer is looking for, but generally it will contain the following elements:

1. A brief sentence that identifies what it is you are reacting to (whether an article, film, broadcast, presentation or picture). Generally this will include the title of the piece and its author (or director if a film, or speaker if a broadcast or presentation, or artist if a picture). You might also include a further sentence that elaborates on the author (or presenter etc.) stating, in particular, why this person is qualified to do what he or she has done.
2. A short description of the main theme(s) of the piece (or film etc.), or style of the picture.
3. Three or four paragraphs that record your reaction, or response, to certain aspects of the piece. **THIS IS THE PRINCIPAL PART** of your reaction piece and is the part that your lecturer will read with particular attention. **It is where you critically analyse and evaluate the content of what it is you have been exposed to.** Again, as we indicated above, your lecturer might have stipulated specific areas or focuses that you need to respond to. If this is the case, then what you include here will have been decided for you and you should follow your lecturer's directions. However, in most cases what you are expected to say will be largely up to you, and you might consider responding in terms of the following:
  - What are the strengths/weaknesses of the piece or presentation?  
[Here you might consider aspects such as the style/organisation/coherence/clarity of the presentation (or writing).]
  - How relevant is the presentation? To whom might it be applicable? Why?
  - What did you gain from the presentation? How might it help you and your career (if relevant)? What was its impact on you?
  - Critique the presenter's assertions and conclusions. Are these valid?
  - Finally, you might wrap it up with a paragraph that presents your recommendations.  
[These might include recommendations about who might benefit from the presentation, or about how one might apply particular aspects of the presentation to one's life or career etc., or how the presenter might improve his/her presentation. Be as specific as you can, rather than simply suggesting a vague list of recommendations just for the sake of saying something. One or two well-chosen recommendations that are seen to be helpful, and relevant, are all that you will need.]

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**The above is a fairly common format for the writing of a reaction piece and will suit most purposes. However, there are other ways to set out a reaction piece, and so you should check with your lecturer about his/her preference. Frequently you will be subject to a fairly strict word limit when writing a reaction piece (say, 200 words), and if this is the case you will need to be more selective in what elements you include, and to write as succinctly as practical.**