

Ashland English 101 Essay #3

Summary & Response

Begin by reading “How Your Brain Tricks You Into Believing Fake News” by Katy Steinmetz (available on Blackboard).

This assignment has two parts:

First written assignment: A brief summary

Write a brief summary of the Steinmetz article. This will not be an evaluation or a response, so language such as “I really liked this” or “This author had a good point” will not be part of the summary.

Second written assignment: A thoughtful academic response

Fake news is a very common topic of conversation now, and even though the term might be Donald Trump’s the concept was there before he used the words. Academic authors (including you) have always had the challenge of deciding what content is reliable and what is not; the Internet brought the problem to our attention, but the problem has been there ever since humans began writing.

In your response to the Steinmetz article, select one of her central points and engage in an academic conversation with her. The tone should be academic, not personal, and the support for your side of the discussion should be concrete and objective.

Your writing task:

Select a central point or issue in the Steinmetz article and discuss your reaction/response.

- Yes, this is an opinion paper, but it is a considered, well-supported opinion.
- As you write your response, consider what aspects of the article you agree with and what aspects you disagree with.
- Be specific in your responses and provide explanations and proof for your responses.
- Your goal is to write a unified essay, so a random listing of comments or points of agreement is not enough. You will need to focus everything on making a central point.

Mechanical Details

The **summary** is a maximum of 150 words! No more!

Response: Minimum 1300 words not counting title, your name, etc. That’s about a four-page paper. There is no maximum, but try to keep it under 2000. Papers significantly under the minimum (90% or less) will not receive the best possible grade.

Format: Standard MLA format. (12-point Times Roman type, double-spaced, 1” margin all around, MLA header.)

Submitting the paper:

- The English Department wants electronic copies of all your essays this semester, so please upload the final product to the drop box in Blackboard. Some students (especially those who use Google Docs) have trouble figuring out how to do this, so ask if you are uncertain how to proceed!
- If you have any trouble getting the Blackboard upload to work, simply print a copy and bring it to class.

Due Dates

1. **Summary:** Tuesday, October 2, 2018
2. **Rough draft of Response** for in-class peer editing: Thursday, October 18, 2018
3. **Final copy of Response:** Tuesday, October 23, 2018

The summary is worth 25 points.

The response is worth 100 points.