

Informational Reading Response Assignment and Rubric

This assignment and corresponding rubric was developed by the ELA department at Civic Leadership Academy in Queens, in order to improve students' background knowledge and practice reading informational texts. As part of this weekly assignment, students lead small-group and whole-class discussions at the end of each week focused around guiding questions from a nonfiction article.

This resource was created in response to a need to develop students' content knowledge around current events, and better align assignments with the type of work students are expected to do in college. Teachers have found that this assignment and rubric fostered student engagement and led to animated small group discussions. This resource was used in grade 9 – 12 classrooms across the school, and is adaptable for use in middle or upper elementary grades.

Informational Reading Response Assignment and Rubric

Civic Leadership Academy

ELA Department

Article of the Week Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to improve background knowledge and to practice reading the types of informational texts that are commonly found in high school and college. Each week, generally on Monday, students will be given an article to read and respond to. The response to the article will be due on Friday, and class time will be designated to having in depth, student led discussions about what was read.

Article of the Week Response Requirements

- Evidence of active reading (annotation of the article)
- One paragraph in length (extended paragraph)
- Include a short description of the article and the author's purpose in writing the article, as well as a personal response to the article and the issues raised by the article.
- Responses should include textual evidence to support claims. ***(This can be done by using quotes in the article, using examples from the article, or referring back to specific aspects of the article in your writing.)***

Directions: Annotate the following article to show active reading and respond to one of the prompts below in an extended paragraph. Attach this article with your response. (Rubric Below)

- 1) Choose an interesting sentence or paragraph and explain how it relates to the meaning of the whole article.
- 2) In your opinion, does the author make a valid argument? Do you find the argument being made in this piece compelling? Why or why not? Explain your response using textual evidence.
- 3) Why did the author choose to write this article now? What event or change triggered the author's purpose? Explain your response using textual evidence.
- 4) Is this article newsworthy? Explain your response with relevant evidence from other appropriate sources.

Rubric	4	3	2	1
Active Reading	Completed annotation with insightful questions/comments in the margins	Some annotations were included along with some thoughtful questions/comments in the margins	Lacking annotations and/or questions or comments in the margins	No annotations and/or questions/comments in the margins
Responses	Clear, fully developed response, with strong evidence of reading comprehension; maintains focus on topic throughout.	Ideas clearly developed; some evidence of reading comprehension.	Ideas not clearly developed; little or no evidence of reading comprehension; loses focus at times.	Fails to provide a full and complete response.
Grammar	No grammar/spelling mistakes; skillfully integrates grammar skills.	Some grammar/spelling mistakes; integrates grammar skills.	Some grammar/spelling mistakes; incorrectly integrates grammar skills.	Distracting level of mistakes; fails to integrate grammar skills.