

Double-Entry Log

I.

Purpose

Description (Summary)

- Describe the Author’s overall *purpose* (to inform, explain, explore, evaluate, argue, negotiate, or other purpose)
- How does the author/text want to affect or change the reader?

Critical Response (Analyze)

- Is the overall purpose clear or muddled?
- Was the actual purpose different from the stated purpose?
- How did the text actually affect you?

Description

Critical Response

II.

Audience/Reader

Description (Summary)

- Who is the *intended* audience?
- What *assumptions* does the author make about the reader’s knowledge or beliefs?
- From what *point of view* or *context* is the author writing?

Critical Response (Analyze)

- Are you part of the intended audience?
- Does the author misjudge the reader’s knowledge or beliefs?
- Examine your own personal or cultural bias or point of view. How does that hinder you from being a critical reader of this text?

Description

Critical Response

III.

Occasion, Genre, Context

Description (Summary)

- What was the *occasion* for this text?
- What *genre* is this text?
- What is the *cultural* or *historical context* for this text?

Critical Response (Analyze)

- What ideas or conversation was taking place on this topic?
- Does the author's chosen genre help achieve the purpose for the audience?
- What passages show the cultural forces at work on the author and the text?

Description

Critical Response

IV.

Thesis & Main Ideas

Description (Summary)

- What key *question* or *problem* does the author/text address?
- What is the author's *thesis*?
- What are the key passages or key moments in the text?

Critical Response (Analyze)

- Where is the thesis stated?
- Are the main ideas related to the thesis?
- Where do you agree or disagree?
- Does the essay have contradictions or errors in logic?
- What ideas or arguments does the essay omit or ignore?
- What experience or prior knowledge do you have about the topic?
- What are the implications or consequences of the essay's ideas?

Description

Critical Response

V.

Organization & Evidence

Description (Summary)

- Where does the author *preview* the essay's organization?
- How does the author *signal* new sections of the essay?
- What kinds of evidence does the author use (personal experience, descriptions, statistics, interviews, other authorities, analytical reasoning, or other?)?

Critical Response (Analyze)

- At what point could you accurately predict the organization of the essay?
- At What points were you confused about the organization?
- What evidence was most or east effective?
- Where did the author rely on assertions rather than on evidence?
- Which of your own personal experiences did you recall as you read the essay?

Description

Critical Response

VI.

Language & Style

Description (Summary)

- What is the author's *tone* (casual, humorous, ironic, angry, preachy, academic, or other?)?
- Are *sentences* and *vocabulary* easy, average, or difficult?
- What *key words* or *images* recur throughout the text?

Critical Response (Analyze)

- Did the tone support or distract from the author's purpose or meaning?
- Did the sentences and vocabulary support or distract from the purpose or meaning?
- Did recurring words or images related to or support the purpose or meaning?

Description

Critical Response