

Keeping a Log on Readings of Essays from *Starting Lines* by Mashey Bernstein

Overview

The idea behind this exercise is to integrate more fully the essays in *Starting Lines* into the class curriculum. Students keep a log of their readings and follow some prescribed formulae in their responses.

The Assignment

100 words per log for a total of 1000 words. 10% of the final grade for this assignment. Students read 10 of the essays by the fifth week of the quarter and ten essays by the final week. For the first log, all the essays should come from the W1 section. For the second log, 5 of the essays should come from W 1 section and 5 from the W2 section. (W2 instructors may devise their own suggestions for student readings e.g. all essays come from the W2 section.)

Format: *Each entry notes the title of the essay and date read.*

Suggestions for how to respond to the essays:

Vary the responses e.g. if you discuss opening sentences in one response, discuss something different in another essay.

- *Effectiveness of first sentence*
- *Effectiveness of first paragraph*
- *Conclusions*
- *Summary par (if any)*
- *Concrete details*
- *Grammar and Style*
- *Use of sources (if any)*
- *Suggestions if you had the essay for peer review*
- *Lessons learned from the essay and how you might apply them to your own writing. Vary the responses e.g. if you discuss opening sentences in one essay, discuss something different in another essay.*

Some points to consider and/or write about:

- *Effectiveness of the first sentence*
- *Effectiveness of the first paragraph*
- *Conclusions*

- *Summary paragraph (if any)*
- *Concrete details*