

# REACTION ESSAYS

- I. DEFINITION – In a reaction essay, the writer is usually given a prompt - a visual or written stimulus – to think about and respond to. It focuses on the writer’s feelings, opinions, and personal observations about the particular prompt.
- II. UNITY – In order to create unity in reaction essays, it is important to provide the reader some background information about the prompt before reacting to it. This background aids the reader in understanding what the author is reacting to. It is important to maintain objective thought in the background information. The body of the essay will focus on the author’s personal reaction. Background information varies according to the type of stimulus the author is reacting to:

- **Description**: When reacting to a visual prompt, the background information is usually a physical description of the item
- **Summary**: When reacting to a written prompt, a summary of it is provided in the introduction
- **Facts**: When reacting to historical events or a theory, factual information is provided such as dates, times, actions, and circumstances.

## II. COHERENCE

- A. ***Repeating key terms & phrase*** - helps readers stay focused on the subject being discussed

### Examples

- The use of *symbolism* in Lisa’s short story was fascinating. This *symbolism* was found throughout the story.
- The *Concorde* is the fastest passenger jet in the world. However, after a terrible crash in 2000, many people wondered if the *Concorde* was a safe airplane.

B. *Using a pronoun to refer to a previous noun or noun phrase* – helps readers clearly follow the flow of information

Examples

- *Rhonda* shocked everyone in her family. *She* decided to become a hot-air balloonist.
- *The system of checks and balances* is used to guarantee that none of the three branches of government has too much power. *It* promotes equity of power.

C. *Using synonyms* – avoids unnecessary repetition of information

3. Examples:

- *The Olympic Games* are played every four years in different countries. *This international competition* involves thousands of athletes from around the world.
- J.D. Salinger became an international success for *his book The Catcher in the Rye*. *This novel* touched millions of young people's lives.