

- **Reading Summaries**

Closely reading and marking your texts will help you compile Reading Summaries. In other words, if you are reading the texts closely, you should be able to complete Reading Summaries fairly quickly. Reading Summaries should include the following:

Summary: In one to five sentences sum up the text's purpose and/or main ideas. In some instances it might be helpful to think of this as overriding claims the author is making.

Author's Methods: Identify some of the author's primary methods. This might be how the author supports his/her claims; the use of logical or emotional appeals; the use of personal experience as evidence; the author's tone; the choice of arrangement; the use of figurative language (metaphors, similes, repetition, parallelism, hyperbole, understatement, analogy, anaphora); the use of key words or the redefinition of words; or the way the author uses a particular genre. Don't worry about identifying all the author's methods—focus on one to three of the author's main methods. Make sure you explain and/or give examples.

Reactions: With regards to reactions, I'm less interested in whether you agree or disagree with a text than what you learned from the text. Your reaction might address one or two of the following questions:

- What questions did this text raise in your mind?
- What if any conclusions did you draw from this text?
- What will you likely remember about this text?
- What did you find particularly effective or ineffective about the text—again focus on the way the argument was presented not the argument itself
- What did you learn from reading the text with regards to either content or writing methods?