

Reading Response Journals- Nonfiction Response Starters

1. Nonfiction Summary: Every writer has a main idea in mind for the book when they begin writing. In addition, they have a main idea for each section or section of the book. The headings often provide clues as to what the main idea of each section is about. Important details are the words and phrases that support the main idea. (You must summarize the section of the book you have read for each nonfiction entry.)

2. Response Choices---Choose one area to focus your response after your summary. Try to vary your choice each time you respond so that you are responding in a variety of ways.

Starting a New Book:

- I chose this book because...
- So far, this book started off... I think I will enjoy it because... or I am not sure how I will like it because..
- Questions I think I will have answered are.....
- So far, this book reminds of _____ book on the same topic because.....

Setting/tone

- The pictures and words in this book helped me create images of the setting by...
- I would have wanted to live during the time that is the setting of the book because....
- The setting of this book reminds me of _____place I have visited before.
- The setting of this book is different from the world we live in now because....

Text Organization

- I used the Table of Contents or index to help me _____because.....
- This book is organized by.....(date, time of year, place, alphabetically, step-by-step) I think the author organized the material this way because.....
- The illustrations helped me understand _____better because...

Author's Point of View

- The author tries to persuade me to believe _____ because of the way s/he _____.
- I like the way the author _____ because.....
- Three details the author used to make readers more interested in this topic are _____, _____, _____.
- I think the author chose to write about this topic because.....
- I would tell the author _____ about my understanding of this topic.

My Reaction:

- This book makes me think about _____ because...
- This book helps me understand _____ better. The part of the text that helped me understand this topic better was, " _____".
- The ideas in this book relate to my life because.....
- As I was reading today, I still have some questions about _____.
- I think the ideas in this book could improve or change the world by.....