

Journal Examples

What follows are examples of what the formats for the different genres should look like.

1. The syllabus asks you to use the following format for responses to pieces of **fiction, nonfiction, and drama** and for **Historical Introductions**. You should select at least three quotes from the text that you see as important to understanding the text itself. One of these quotes should be at the beginning of the text, another from the middle, and the last one from the end of the text.

You have **not** been asked to respond to the letter Columbus sends to Spain concerning his first voyage. However, if you had been asked to respond to it, your entry might have looked like what follows:

Quote 1: "I passed from the Canary Islands to the Indies with the fleet which the most illustrious king and queen our sovereigns gave to me" (26).

Response: This letter is serving political purposes. Columbus is seeing to it that the king and queen know of his gratitude and his feeling of being in debt to them.

Quote 2: "And since there were neither towns nor villages on the seashore, but only small hamlets, with the people of which I could not have speech because they all fled immediately, I went forward on the same course, thinking that I should not fail to find great cities and towns" (26).

Response: Here it's obvious that Columbus expects to find the types of communities here that were similar to what existed at home. Since Columbus and his crew had to look pretty foreign to the native people, I can see why they all fled.

Quote 3: "In the interior are mines of metal and the population is without number. Espanola is a marvel" (27).

Response: This is the last sentence in a paragraph that is listing all of the natural resources of the land. It's interesting to me because it not only is trying to sell those back home on the multiple resources this new territory brings, but it is also listing the people as one of the resources. This shows the mindset of the time where it was thought okay to make slaves of these people to take over their land.

2. The syllabus asks you to use the following format for **poetry**. You should select one complete thought/sentence of importance for each poem and respond to it. One complete thought or sentence may be longer than one line. If it's three lines or fewer, you can simply put a slash where the lines would end. If it's longer than three lines indent the whole thing. Then write a short summary for each poem.

You **do** need to respond to the poetry of Ann Bradstreet for a later journal entry. Here might be one way a student could respond to Bradstreet's "The Author to Her Book."

If the following quote were three lines or fewer, it would look like this:

Quote: "Thou ill-formed offspring of my feeble brain,/ Who after birth didst by my side remain,/ Till snatched from thence by friends, less wise than true,/ Who thee abroad exposed to public view,/ Making thee in rags , halting to the press to trudge,/ Where errors were not lessened (all may judge)" (lines 1 - 6).

But since it is longer than three lines, it should look like this:

Thou ill-formed offspring of my feeble brain,
Who after birth didst by my side remain,
Till snatched from thence by friends, less wise than true,
Who thee abroad exposed to public view,
Making thee in rags, halting to the press to trudge,
Where errors were not lessened (all may judge). (lines 1 - 6)

Response: I like how she's discussing her book as an offspring born from her brain. I think writing can be like giving birth since the ideas have to be formed and created. It sounds like she's not too happy that her friends decided to take her poetry abroad to be published. I guess I wouldn't be too happy if my husband decided to take some of my work and try to get it published without telling me.

Summary: The poem is written for the second edition to her poetry. It seems to me that she's trying to explain how her poetry came to be published in the first place. It also seems to me that she wants to explain that she has gone back to attempt to edit her poetry for this edition, but that sometimes her corrections simply created new error. She's either a very modest person or she's a person who wants to appear as though she's modest.