

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Summary/Response Essay Organizer

### *Silent Spring by Rachel Carson*

PLEASE TURN THIS DOCUMENT IN WITH YOUR ESSAY!

**Topic Choices. CHOOSE ONE:**

- Explain why you would like to read this whole book (assuming your English skills were high enough). Think about your current interests, your educational and career fields, and your personal development.
- The world has seen significant environmental improvements in the past fifty years since the release of *Silent Spring*. What about the next fifty years? How might we continue to be more in balance with the environment?
- Write about your hometown. Have humanity's actions made it environmentally better or worse? Give a few specific examples to illustrate your points.

1. Let's work on your thesis statement. First of all, put a check by the topic you will develop as response body paragraph in your essay.

Why would you like to read all of *Silent Spring*? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What environmental improvements might we see in the next fifty years? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What has humanity done to make your hometown environmentally better or worse? \_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Write a very brief and general answer to the topic you checked on the line after the question.

Try a thesis statement! Remember to include the topic (*Silent Spring*) and a general statement (controlling idea) that somehow encompasses your answer to one of the questions above.

- Our example: \_\_\_\_\_

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- BAD example: *I would like to read all of Silent Spring, but my English is so poor and I worry about my lack of vocabulary but I know something must be done for my hometown because it is very ugly with trash everywhere nobody recycles that it is big problem.*

THESIS STATEMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2. INTRODUCTION

- Now that you have your thesis statement, it's time to think of a HOOK. What **interesting** information could you use to start your essay?

- Remember that when you write your introduction, you'll need to make smooth connections from your hook to the source information and then to the thesis statement.

## 3. THE SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

- Begin your summary with a general statement that your summary is from the first two chapters of *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson. Write that statement here:

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- Make a list of other main points you will need to include in your summary:

4. THE RESPONSE PARAGRAPH

- Write a short outline for your response paragraph.
- The response paragraph will be about \_\_\_\_\_
  - Some main points to include are:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - Some specific examples I can use are:

5. CONCLUSION! (You're almost finished!)

- How will you end your conclusion and your essay? (See page 51 of the e-Text for some good ideas for your final sentence(s). DO NOT end with a vague and passive sentence like, *We need to seriously think about this problem.* Write your ending here.

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***Please continue to follow all the steps we've discussed in class to write a good essay!***



**Summary/Response General Outline**

## Introduction:

- Hook
- Identification of author and book; general idea what it's about
- Bridging information
- Thesis statement

## Summary Paragraph

- Present main ideas as they occurred in the two chapters
- Use your own words and style
- No quotes
- No in-text citation needed

## Response Paragraph

- Topic sentence
- Discussion with relevant examples and details
- Concluding sentence
- One quote allowed. Not first or last sentence of paragraph. Include page number in parentheses after the quote and before period.

## Conclusion

- Restate thesis statement
- Summarize response
- End appropriately

**OTHER POINTS:**

- About 600 words
- Response paragraph needs to be longer than all other paragraphs.
- Use Rachel Carson 1x only; thereafter, Carson.
- Must make direct reference in response paragraphs to *Silent Spring*
- Double space; write and correct neatly.
- EDIT for spelling, punctuation, and your particular grammar demons!