

Guidelines for Response Papers

The aim of a short response paper is

- to check if you have read the text(s)
- to assess and train your ability to understand sociological texts in English
- to assess and train your ability to write small sociological texts in English

Requirements:

- A response paper is a structured and continuous text (not only bullets!)
- Each short response paper should be about a page (approximately 2000 characters)
- Eight short response papers (graded at least "E") are necessary to pass the course
- Each response paper has to provide a brief summary of all the required readings for one week
- Each response paper has to be submitted online before the session, where we discuss the texts; late response papers cannot be accepted and will have to be compensated for by writing a longer final essay or even a full-blown research paper at the end of the seminar
- Check orthography and grammar before you submit the response paper
- Make sure that you deal with the sociologically relevant issues of the texts
- Each response paper should contain a brief empirical example of what is discussed, not an example used in the text but one that you came up with
- Each response paper should contain at least one question, either a question you might have about the text(s) or a question that we could discuss in class
- Please give each response paper a personal touch, also in the choice of your examples and question; I am sick of interchangeable AI-generated content
- Do not use AI chatbots (e.g., ChatGPT) to generate content, though you may use them to improve your style; I reserve the right to schedule an oral examination covering all the readings of the class, if I suspect improper use of AI

Recommendations:

- Summarize the text in your own words (try not to quote or paraphrase!)
- Make sure that you write the name(s) of the author(s) correctly (otherwise it leaves a really bad impression)
- You will get a grade on each response paper and brief feedback on the first ones; please keep my criticism in mind for the next response papers you write