Response or reaction essay. Paper details: For this assignment you will compose an essay responding/reacting to material that challenges our traditional understanding of the Constitution and democracy as its practiced here in the United States. A response/reaction essay asks the reader (you) to examine, explain, and defend his/her reaction to a reading/theme/film/lecture, etc. You will be asked to explore what and why you like or dislike about certain reading(s)/theme(s)/film(s)/lecture(s), etc., explain whether you agree or disagree with the author/material, identify the materials purpose, and critique it/them. There is no right or wrong answer/format to a response/reaction essay. Nonetheless, it is important that you demonstrate an engagement and understanding of the materials and clearly explain and support your reactions. Don’t be dismissive though; these are rarely intended to be free flowing, last minute scrawls on the back of a napkin. Be prepared to address a question and support why you think that way about it. Generally, response/reaction essays asks the following questions: What does the text/material have to do with you, personally, and with your life (past, present or future)? It is not acceptable to write that the text/material has NOTHING to do with you, since just about everything humans can write has to do in some way with every other human. How much does the text/material agree or clash with your view of the world, and what you consider right and wrong? Use quotes as examples of how it agrees with and supports what you think about the world, about right and wrong, and about what you think it is to be human. Use quotes and examples to discuss how the text disagrees with what you think about the world and about right and wrong. How much were your views and opinions challenged or changed by this text/material, if at all? Did the text/material communicate with you? Why or why not? Give examples of how your views might have changed or been strengthened (or perhaps, of why the text/material failed to convince you, the way it is). Please do not write "I agree with everything the author wrote," since everybody disagrees about something, even if it is a tiny point. Use quotes to illustrate your points of challenge, or where you were persuaded, or where it left you cold. How well does it address things that you, personally, care about and consider important to the world? How does it address things that are important to your family, your community, your ethnic group, to people of your economic or social class or background, or your faith tradition? If not, who does or did the text serve? Did it pass the "Who cares?" test? Use quotes to illustrate. Reading and writing "critically" does not mean the same thing as "criticizing," in everyday language (complaining or griping, fault-finding, nit-picking). Your "critique" can and should be positive and praise the text/material if possible, as well as pointing out problems, disagreements and shortcomings. How well did you enjoy the material (or not) as entertainment or as a work of art? Use quotes or examples to illustrate the quality of the text/material as art or entertainment. Of course, be aware that some texts are not meant to be entertainment or art – a news report or textbook, for instance, may be neither entertaining or artistic, but may still be important and successful. To sum up, what is your overall reaction to the material? Would you read something else like this, or by this author, in the future or not? Why or why not? To whom would you recommend this text? Guidelines: Your paper should be a minimum of 1000 to 1500 words (not including header), which comes out to roughly 3 to 5 pages in length. Generally speaking, the higher the word/page count, the stronger the paper is which should translate to a higher score. Attempt to discuss as many sources as possible (at least 6-7). No, this doesn’t mean you have to address them all but keep in mind the more you discuss the higher grade should be. DO NOT use the standard high school-level approach of just writing: "I liked this book (or article or document or movie) because it is so cool and the ending made me feel happy," or "I hated it because it was stupid, and had nothing at all to do with my life, and was too negative and boring." In writing these responses assume the reader has not read the readings or seen the lectures or films, so provide a brief summary (a few sentences) for each that you decide to utilize to provide context. This does not mean your response should solely be a summarization of the contents. Instead, take a systematic, analytical approach to the materials. Students should aim to include a citation (quote or paraphrasing) per page. While you can use quotes, they should be used sparingly, especially for assignments as short as a response/reaction essay. In all honesty, quotes should only be used to emphasize a specific point and should not be used as filler. That means block quotations are prohibited. These assignments are meant to be a reflection of your thoughts, feelings and ideas, not those of others, so, be ready and willing to read the materials, understand/analyze them and then provide your reaction in a written format. When citing (quoting or paraphrasing), students don’t need to use footnotes or endnotes. Simply use parenthetical citations by putting the authors last name and page numbers (If available) in parenthesis, ex. (Bennett, 13) or (Buzzanco, 67). You should state your general argument (your thesis) in an introductory paragraph and then use the rest of the essay to support your position(s), making sure that you deal carefully with each of the issues the questions raise somewhere in the paper. For this particular assignment, consider/address the following questions: What does counter-revolutionary mean? How did the first plan of government, the Articles of Confederation, differ from the Constitution? What were its strengths and weaknesses? Was the Constitution an abandonment of the ideals of the American Revolution? If so, how? Whom does the Constitution serve vs the Articles of Confederation? Why is this significant? Where does power reside in the relationship between people and government under the Constitution? What does the Constitution suggest about democracy in America? Was the Constitution essential to assure our survival as a nation? Is the Constitution a perfect document, or is it in need of revising? What is the relationship between American style democracy and capitalism? Are they compatible? I have attached a SAMPLE ESSAY.