

Blog Post #1: Initial Impressions
(350-500 words, *not* counting your quoted excerpt)

Note:

You should have read at least 50 pages or $\frac{1}{5}$ of your book (whichever is less) before writing this post.

Guidelines:

Epigraph:

- Begin your post with an **epigraph**: a short quote or saying that appears at the beginning of a book, chapter, movie, etc. that has some thematic connection to whatever follows it. This will likely be a quote from the novel itself, but doesn't need to be (it could be from a song, another text, etc.).

What book are you reading, and how far have you read?

Author and title (e.g. Jon Krakauer's *Into the Wild*)

(To page # ____ out of ____ total # of pages)

Summary (3-5 sentences):

- What's happened so far? What are the most important events, ideas, characters, or people involved?

Impressions (3-5 sentences):

- Reflect on your impressions of the book so far: what do you like and why?
- Is there anything you *don't* like about the book so far (if so, what and why)?

Consider both **style** and **content** in your response.

Key Passage Conversation¹ (quote + 3-5 sentences):

- Choose at least one passage from your reading that you found *interesting, confusing, strange, or revealing* (it can be as short as a few sentences and no longer than half of a page).
- Quote this passage in accurate MLA format, and put yourself in conversation with it: What exactly did you find interesting (etc.) about this passage and *why*?

Questions (3-5 sentences):

- What questions does the text itself raise?
- What questions did it raise for you or do you have about it?

You may write these questions in bullet point format if you wish.

¹ The vast majority of writing tasks you'll encounter in college require you to "be able to converse with the material--to be in some kind of dialogue with it, to see the questions the material asks, and to pose your own questions about it" (Rosenwasser and Stephen 107).

Scoring Rubric:

- ✓ Author provides a focused response to the assignment criteria
- ✓ Author uses organized paragraphs and conventions of standard, conversational written English
- ✓ Author includes specific examples and details from text to support his/her ideas
- ✓ Author elaborates on his/her ideas with depth and clarity

Proficient (20 points):

Response complete, specific, accurate, detailed, and on time.

Emerging (15 points):

Minor problem in one area

Limited (10 points):

Minor problems in two areas or significant problem in one area

Unsatisfactory (0 points):

Problems in three areas