

Summer Reading Contest Rubric

The Challenge: Choose something published in *The New York Times* that got your attention and tell us why via a short written or video response. Contest judges evaluate your work based on these criteria. When class starts, you will revise your best summer response to include in your writing portfolio, which will be graded on how well you meet these standards.

Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Description
Personal Connection	Response makes clear why the student chose the <i>Times</i> piece. It may explain how the piece connects to the writer's experiences, interests, questions, or concerns, and/or explore the relationship between the reader and the topic or text.
Critical Thinking	Response traces aspects of the student's thinking while engaging with the text. This may include details of what the student noticed and wondered, connections made, emotional reactions, critiques of the piece, and more.
References to Times Source Material	Via the use of quotes or references to specific details from the text, the response shows evidence that the student read closely and reacted to new or notable information or ideas.
Voice and Style	Response is created with a natural and engaging voice and uses language, style, and tone appropriate to its purpose.
Contest Guidelines	Follows all the rules and guidelines as detailed in the official contest announcement.