**Here are some steps to help you write a reading response:**

1. Read the assigned readings.

2. Identify a thesis argued by the author. This means an analytical argument, not simply a fact.  In some readings, the author will have many sub-theses. You don't have to identify them all -- choose one that you find interesting.  One example from class was that I argued that race is a social category, and has no biological basis.  That was my thesis, which you (hopefully) identified as I was talking. I gave some evidence to support that thesis. However, there are many people who disagree -- this is a necessary part of a thesis.  If no one disagrees/has ever disagreed, then the point is too obvious to qualify as a real thesis. In some readings, like A Doll's House, there is no clearly argued thesis, but there are lots of arguments implied by the play -- find one. And remember: moral judgments, or saying people shouldn't have done bad things are not analytical theses. Go deeper to explain how, and more importantly, why.

3. Identify the evidence the author uses to back up his/her thesis.  For instance, I talked about how blood type does not correlate with race, how race is defined differently in different places and times, and how there are more differences among Africans in particular (such as height) than between Africans and people from other continents.

4. Once you feel like you've mastered the above method, try to formulate YOUR OWN thesis based on the readings. Do one or the other -- identify one from the author, OR formulate your own.

5. Find three or so supports for your thesis.

6. Write out your thesis in a clear paragraph.

7. Write three paragraphs supporting your thesis, one each for your examples.

8. Write a conclusion tying it all together.

9. Edit what you've written.

Remember, the whole thing is supposed to be about 2 pages, or five paragraphs -- one paragraph laying out your thesis, three supports, and a conclusion (or so).

I will grade you based on your thesis, the specific evidence you have from the readings, and the clarity/correctness of your writing.

If you need more help, just ask.

I hope that clarifies the assignment. If you're confused, please don't hesitate to send me an e-mail and ask.