

# FYS: Science Fiction

FYS 101



## – Reaction Paper 1 - 50 points –

Goals	<p>These reaction papers serve as an opportunity for you to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• practice and improve your writing.</li><li>• enhance your ability to analyze assumptions and evidence authors and filmmakers use in making their arguments or telling their stories.</li><li>• prepare for writing your research paper and media presentation.</li></ul>
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Forbidden Planet</i> (1956)</li><li>• <i>Star Trek - By Any Other Name</i> (1968)</li><li>• <i>The Road Not Taken</i> by Harry Turtledove (1985)</li></ul>
Assignment	<p>Select one specific moment or scene or sequence from each of the resources noted above and write a reaction paper integrating them. While this is by no means an exhaustive list, here are some topics you may consider writing about in your reaction paper:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What were some of the most interesting aspects of the sequence and why?</li><li>• Was there anything especially remarkable about their style or presentation?</li><li>• Did those moments change your mind about anything?</li><li>• What do these scenes remind you of in TV, films, and literature?</li></ul> <p>Use focused and specific examples from all of the resources in making your points. Please <b>do not</b> write about primitive special effects, as they are among the least interesting aspects of these works. Please <b>do not</b> summarize the plot, I've seen it.</p>
Format	<p>Your first version must be no less than three (3) pages in length, double-spaced, in a 12-point font that you like, with one-inch margins. The revised version must be no more than two (2) pages. Put your name, the date, and an interesting paper title paper on the top of first page.</p>
Details and Grading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Content <span style="float: right;">15 points</span><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▸ Did you express your central ideas in simple sentences?</li><li>▸ Did you express your own thoughts and arguments?</li></ul></li><li>• Organization <span style="float: right;">20 points</span><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▸ Does the introduction provide focus?</li><li>▸ Does the conclusion summarize the author's ideas as well as yours?</li><li>▸ Does the conclusion offer some final perspective or conclusion?</li><li>▸ Is the paper easy to follow?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Does it flow naturally, with clear and logical transitions between paragraphs?</li><li>- Does each paragraph have a central idea?</li></ul></li><li>▸ Are your sources clearly identified?</li></ul></li><li>• Grammar and Style <span style="float: right;">15 points</span><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▸ Is there any grammatical or spelling errors?</li><li>▸ Is the writing style clear and FOJ (free of jargon)?</li><li>▸ Are your word choices non-abstruse?</li></ul></li><li>• Formatting <span style="float: right;">-∞ if not</span><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▸ Does the paper conform to the formatting specifications?</li></ul></li></ul>

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Submitting

Print out your paper and hand it in at the beginning of the class in which it is due. See our syllabus for due dates. When submitting the revision you must include the original version stapled to the back.

Common  
Issues  
and  
Resources

- Watch out for missing commas. Look up usage guidelines for comma usage.
  - <http://www.bartleby.com/141/strunk.html>
  - <http://www.bartleby.com/116/402.html>
- Watch out for bad capitalization. Look up capitalization guidelines.
  - <http://www.mit.edu/course/21/21.guide/capitals.htm>
  - <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/592/01/>
- Don't be wordy. If you can possibly say it more simply, please do so.
- Use the active voice. I.e., "I shall always remember my first visit to Altair 4." is preferable to "My first visit to Altair 4 will always be remembered by me."
  - <http://www.bartleby.com/141/strunk5.html>
- More than anything else, **proofread your work**. Read it aloud so that you can hear yourself and get some idea of how it sounds and how it flows. Better yet, get someone else to read it for you. (Siri and Cortana will do just fine if you can't find a human.)
  - <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/editing-and-proofreading/>
- We have an awesome Writing Center. Use them! <http://www.marist.edu/writingcenter/>

