

## Summary-Response Essay for "Stop Knocking Curation"

- 1 In his article "Stop Knocking Curation," Steven Rosenbaum argues content curation is misunderstood and misused, and asserts that *correct* curation is invaluable<sup>1</sup> for helping us process information on the Internet. Content curation is the collection and organization of information on a topic or theme. One popular example is Pinterest, which allows people to share and collect information on all kinds of topics. While I agree with some of the author's points to an extent, I feel that they could have been clearer, and included the point of view of the reader who is the user of content curation.
- 2 Rosenbaum makes two points in his article. The first point is that **the idea of** content curation is misunderstood – or misused by people to sell things. He criticizes stores that use the term "curation." According to Rosenbaum, these stores are not really curating because they are just creating collections of the same things. This is different from true content curation. Rosenbaum further states that content curation should be defined as creating "entirely new editorial works by finding, filtering, and contextualizing" information. He goes on to argue that this practice is critical<sup>2</sup> now, as there is so much content on the Internet that it is overwhelming. He includes facts such as "every day, 50 million photos are uploaded to Facebook, 864,000 hours of video are uploaded to YouTube, and 294 billion emails are sent." He asserts that this is too much information to process,<sup>3</sup> and readers need help sorting through it. Content curation provides this help. Rosenbaum ends by saying that curation is a new critical role for journalists.
- 3 Rosenbaum's article contains interesting points, but I found some of his examples and explanations debatable.<sup>4</sup> He claims that the term "curation" is misused, and gives an example of a wine store that curates wine. Why can't a wine store curate wines? This example made me think of the museum in my neighborhood. Museums have curators who put together collections of paintings that are thematically related. The curators contextualize<sup>5</sup> them by sharing information on who the artist was, when the artist painted, and so on. That can be done for wine collections, too. Curators could bring together

<sup>1</sup>invaluable: very valuable

<sup>2</sup>critical: extremely important

<sup>3</sup>process: to deal with, handle, or manage

<sup>4</sup>debatable: not clear; possibly not true

<sup>5</sup>contextualize: show the environment, surroundings, history, etc. that something exists in

wines related on a theme, maybe because they were all mentioned in a novel, or all taste good with chocolate. They could share information on how the wines were made, or why they are relevant to the theme. I think it is possible to curate a wine store. If Rosenbaum had talked more about why the wine store was not well curated in his opinion, it would have made his point clearer. Reading this part of the article, I felt unconvinced that the label was being used inappropriately.

4 However, another part of the argument is Rosenbaum's very clear second point about the need for content curators, and I agree with it to an extent. The facts and figures about the volume of information are indeed compelling. Many people can relate to the feeling of being overwhelmed by the amount of data coming to us on social media and in our email. We simply do not have time, or the patience, to read or look through all this data on our own. Curation might be the type of "filtering" that Margarita Tartakovsky mentions as a strategy for dealing with all of this information in her article "Overcoming Information Overload." However, Rosenbaum says that content curation is the job of journalists. I find that assertion<sup>6</sup> questionable. It's also important that readers think for themselves and make sure that the content they see isn't just one person's opinion. For example, I go on one particular website for home decorating ideas. I see lots of pictures of the same styles over and over. I know that this site is just one point of view, so I go to other sites, too, for fresh ideas. I think that responsible readers seek out information in addition to the information curated for them so that they can broaden their perspectives. In this way, content curation isn't just a journalist's job – it is everyone's job.

5 In conclusion, Rosenbaum makes some interesting points about what curation is and why we need it. However, there are some weaknesses in his argument because some of his examples of "true" curation are less convincing, and he also does not consider the reader's responsibility. As the amount of information we come across will only increase in the future, I believe the process of content curation will become even more necessary. It would be helpful to know how to do this for ourselves so that we, as readers, can know when content curation is done right, or choose to do it for ourselves.

<sup>6</sup>assertion: something that is said or claimed

### 5 Analyze Writing Skills

In paragraph 3, the writer compares his neighborhood museum to a wine store. What is the purpose of this comparison? Circle your answer.

- a to prove that museums and wine stores give different information
- b to prove that they can both be curators for similar reasons

### 6 Analyze Writing Skills

Why does the writer mention Tartakovsky in paragraph 4? Circle your answer.

- a to show why Tartakovsky would agree with Rosenbaum
- b to show why Tartakovsky would disagree with Rosenbaum

### 7 Analyze Writing Skills

In paragraph 4, the writer states, "I find that assertion questionable." What is the effect of saying "questionable" rather than "wrong"? Circle your answer.

- a It sounds less emotional
- b It sounds more direct

### 8 Analyze Writing Skills

Underline the prediction that the writer makes in paragraph 5.



### 3.1 Check Your Understanding

Answer the questions.

- 1 According to the writer, which two main points does Rosenbaum make in his article?
- 2 Why does the writer believe that a wine store can be curated? Do you agree or disagree?
- 3 The writer suggests that content curation is everyone's job. Do you think Rosenbaum would be convinced by his argument? Why or why not?



### 3.2 Outline the Writer's Ideas

Complete the outline for "Summary-Response Essay for 'Stop Knocking Curation'" using the phrases in the box.

readers need help sorting through it  
 curators of wine stores are like museum curators  
 curation is critical today  
 stores are collecting – not curating  
 curation could be "filtering"  
 content curation is everyone's job



#### ESSAY OUTLINE

##### I. Introduction

Source Text  
Main Idea

In his article "Stop Knocking Curation," Steven Rosenbaum argues that content curation is misunderstood and misused, and asserts that correct curation is invaluable for helping us process information on the Internet.

Student's Thesis

While I agree with some of his points to an extent, I feel that they could have been clearer and included the point of view of the reader who is the user of content curation.

**Body Paragraph 1: Summary**

**II. Rosenblatt makes two points**

Point 1

A. Content misunderstood and misused by stores

Detail

Detail

B. Definition of true content curation

Point 2

B.

Detail

1. So much content on the Internet

Detail

2.

Detail

3. New roles for journalists

**Body Paragraph 2: Response**

**III: Disagree with author's examples**

Point 1

A. Wine store example of misuse - unconvincing

Detail

1. Museum curators - paintings on theme

Detail

2.

Detail

3. Author should have given more explanation

**Body Paragraph 3: Response**

**IV: Agree that curators necessary - to an extent**

Point 1

A. Facts and figures are compelling

Detail

1. No time to read or look through data

Detail

2.

Point 2

B. Curation is job of journalists - questionable

Detail

1. Readers must think for themselves

Detail

2.

**V. Conclusion**

## Summary-Response Essays

A summary-response essay gives writers the opportunity to express their understanding of another author's ideas and evaluate them in an objective and logical way. Summary-response essays are similar to other academic essays: there is a thesis that the writer supports and develops. The difference is that in this type of essay, writers reflect on an author's ideas.

This type of essay has the following organization:

- An **introduction**, including:
  - the **title and author** of the text you will summarize and respond to
  - background information on the topic
  - the author's main idea
  - a **thesis** that gives your main response to the text
- **Body paragraph 1 summary**: A **summary** of the author's text, including:
  - the author's main idea
  - supporting ideas that illustrate the idea well, such as important examples, evidence, and information from the text
  - a short quotation from the text – but only if necessary
- **Body paragraphs 2–4 response**: Each paragraph responds to a different point in the article that you feel strongly about. A response paragraph includes:
  - a topic sentence that identifies whether you will support, criticize, or illustrate a point the author makes
  - your own critical analysis of the point using examples and supporting details
  - evidence from your own observations or those of other authors
- A **conclusion**, including:
  - a brief summary of the text's main idea
  - a restatement of your thesis
  - a concluding statement, such as a comment, prediction, or call to action



### 3.3 Notice

Look again at the summary-response for "Stop Knocking Curation" on pages 186–187 and at the information above. Circle your answers.

- 1 In which paragraph does the writer mention the title and author of the source text? 1 2 3 4 5
- 2 In which paragraph does the writer explain the main ideas of the source text's author? 1 2 3 4 5
- 3 In which two paragraphs does the writer give his own responses to the author's ideas? 1 2 3 4 5
- 4 In which paragraph does a prediction and call to action appear in the essay? 1 2 3 4 5

## INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

The introductory paragraph presents readers with important background information about the article. Your readers might not have read the article, so you need to give credit to the author and provide enough context to help readers understand the topic and the author's point of view. Include the following information:

- the author's name and the title of the source text
- the author's main idea in your own words
- background information about the audience and purpose of the text
- a thesis statement that states your response to the main idea(s) of the text

Read the introductory paragraph from the Student Model below and notice how the writer has marked up the text to note the key features included.

In his article "Stop Knocking Curation," Steven Rosenbaum argues that content curation is misunderstood and misused, and asserts that *correct* curation is invaluable for helping us process information on the Internet. Content curation is the collection and organization of information on a topic or theme. One popular example is Pinterest, which allows people to share and collect information on all kinds of topics. While I agree with some of the author's points to an extent, I feel that they could have been clearer, and included the point of view of the reader who is the user of content curation.

credit to the author and his article

a paraphrase of the author's main idea

background information about the article's audience and purpose

the writer's thesis statement

ACTIVITY

### 3.4 Practice

Use the information below to write the first sentence of an introductory paragraph. Use the model above as an example.

Author's name: Margarita Tartakovsky

Name of article: "Overcoming Information Overload"

Main idea: Information overload can cause the brain to work too hard and make people feel stressed, but the secret is to find ways to control it through the decisions we make.