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| **ENG 1101**  **Essay #4**  **Response Essay** |

Length: about 2 1/2 pages

No Works Cited page is required

**DUE:** In-Class on Tuesday, May 12

(LATE AND REVISED PAPERS MUST BE TYPED IN MLA FORMAT)

For this essay you will write a response to one of the essays assigned in your textbook:

* Benjamin Shephard’s essay, “Fighting Police Brutality in Global Brooklyn.”

OR

* Mark Berkey-Gerard’s “Youth Gangs”

Choose from one of the following prompts:

In Mark Berkey-Gerard’s essay, he offers reasons why some young people join gangs. In your essay, **discuss why young people may be tempted to join gangs**. Refer to directly to the text and show which aspects of Berkey-Gerard’s essay you agree and/or disagree with and also discuss how gang presence affects the wider community. You may refer to your own experience or the experience of others, if you wish.

In Benjamin Shephard’s essay, he discusses how a group of young people and community members organized to challenge the misuse of power by police officers in Bushwick, Brooklyn. In your essay, **discuss whether or not you believe that community response is an effective way to create lasting change**. You may refer to your own experience or the experience of others, if you wish. You might also suggest a specific community action that you think people should be taking now.

As you write, remember the argumentative strategies we’ve discussed in class: definition, exemplification, narrative, cause and effect, argumentation, comparison. Also keep in mind the five section essay: introductory paragraph with a clear thesis statement, three paragraphs that support the thesis statement, a concluding section.

Your response essay should:

* Provide a clear thesis statement (your argument) in the introductory paragraph
* Offer support for your thesis statement
* Transition well between ideas
* Clearly paraphrase and/or quote and paraphrase from one or both essays, clarifying to the reader how the texts support or contrast your ideas
* Close with a concluding paragraph
* Have a title (this is often easiest to write after you’ve written all or part of your essay)

Additionally, do not over quote your authors. Use the text to underscore and support your own ideas.

Your response essay will be assessed on the following:

* Development and clarity of your argument.
* Integration of your ideas with the ideas in the texts through summaries, paraphrases, and quotations.
* Organization of your overall essay
* Language and mechanics, such as sentence clarity and fluid use of transitions.