

# First Close Read: Summary & Response

Daniel Hoek — Proseminar — Spring 2024

Due date: Wednesday 7 February, before class.

Word count: 300-600 words.

Your task is to give a summary of one of the selected papers (your choice), followed by your own brief response to the paper (one paragraph).

One good kind of response would be to identify some particular point in the author's view that you are not clear about, and to explain the confusion (E.g. "When they say *thus and so*, the author might mean *yada yada* or *blah-di-blah*... This makes a difference because..." / "The author claims that *thus and so* follows from *this and that*, but I didn't understand what the connection between those two claims is supposed to be. I would have thought ...") Another possibility would be to pose a further question not answered in the paper and speculate about what the author would answer. Or you could give an application of the author's view to a different kind of example. Or you could give an objection to something the author says — etcetera.

Your summary should outline, in very broad strokes, what the author's view is and what motivation they give for that view. Don't use direct quotations in this part — use your own words. Your summary should include any details of the view that you need in order to explain your response, and it should exclude details that are irrelevant to your response. In this way, your summary should be *tailored* to your response to the paper.

(In the response part of the paper, you can use direct quotations if you like — for instance if there's something specific about the author's wording of a certain claim that you want to comment on.)