

Here is what we expect to see in a response essay:

COLOR CODE AND USEFUL TIPS:

1. **INTRODUCTION: SUMMARY** section → Give the reader the main ideas of the original text.
2. **BODY: ANSWER** to the question → Answer the question clearly, preferably in one sentence.
  - 2.1 Support section (textual details) → Support your answer to the question using the examples, details, arguments from the original text.
  - 2.2 Support section (personal views) → Support your answer to the question using personal views with relevant justification. *If the writer has given two reasons for something, and you can think of a third one, this is where you should write them.*
3. **CONCLUSION:** Summarize, conclude your response essay by paraphrasing your answer and summarizing the supporting ideas you have used.

Sample Response On “Barbie: Is It Simply a Toy?”

In the text “Barbie: Is it simply a toy?”, the writer talks about the popular Barbie Doll. The writer gives us a history of the Barbie Doll and claims that it is not just a simple toy. He/she also argues that the Barbie Doll is a symbol of the consumer culture and has influenced society, especially young girls, negatively. However, the company that produces the toy maintains the negative effects are not intentional and that they will produce the doll as long as people demand it.

Despite the company’s statement, I agree with the writer that the Barbie Doll affects the physical and psychological development of young girls negatively. First of all, the “perfect” body of the Barbie Doll is a problem because it is not realistic. Most young girls might feel bad because they don’t look as good as the Barbie Doll. For example, Heather Thompson’s research showed that, 58% of young girls think blonde women are more beautiful, and 80% think thin women are more successful and people love them more. Because of this, people have the idea of one single perfect woman, and this is not good. Another problem is that these dolls may cause mental problems such as eating disorders. For example, 60% of the girls who have Barbie Dolls think they are not thin enough, so they may develop an eating disorder called bulimia. These disorders are closely related to self-esteem problems as indicated by Thomson’s research. Finally, although the company claims that the Barbie doll encourages creativity for fashion, in fact, it does not. The doll’s physical characteristics are too standard, and all accessories are sold ready-made. Therefore, children do not need to think differently to make something new. They don’t create clothes or accessories for the toy; they just buy them.

Obviously, the Barbie Doll is not the perfect toy because of several reasons. It creates an unrealistic idea of the perfect woman and makes children unhappy with their own appearance. Besides, it's not a creative toy. Therefore, you should think twice before buying one for your little daughter's birthday.

(384 Words)