

Response to reading chapters 4-5 of *Things and Stuff*¹

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9/2/10
IDS 100-09

Summary

The main point in chapter 4 seemed to be that stuff is really important when discussing things (p. 40), and that without things, there can't be stuff (p. 45). In Chapter 5 the author moved on to focus on why things and stuff are both important. In particular, he claims that "of all of the things one can consider, stuff is one of them" (p. 53).

Response

Although he has some good points, I think he oversimplifies his discussion of stuff (e.g. p. 45 and 49). Sure, stuff and things are similar, but they are not precisely the same thing. They are even spelled differently, and one of them is longer.

Question

1. I don't quite understand his definition of "stuff"
2. If his argument about things and stuff is valid, what does that imply about junk?
3. This got me thinking: Why a book on things and stuff? Why is this such an important topic? Aren't junk and objects just as important?

Evaluation

I spent about 1.5 hours preparing.

My participation: 4/5

I participated in the small group discussion about as much as others in my group, and I felt I did a good job of responding to several comments of others.²

¹ This sample response is based on a fictitious book, and the responses are very brief. Typically, the *Summarize* and *Respond* sections should be longer. The *Question* and *Evaluate* sections are pretty typical of my expectations.

² Note that this is in a simulated hand-written font because you will be writing this in at the end of the class each day.