

Compose a critical essay that offers a literary analysis of any text that we have read as part of the course. This essay should be organized in a relatively straightforward manner based around 3 passages that you choose to close read. Choose these passages wisely, making sure that they are chock-full of literary devices and that when strung together, they help enhance the meaning of a character, theme, or image, or the text as a whole. Start with close reading, but feel free to sprinkle in theory as you wish.

Below is a fairly formulaic blueprint of what your essay should look like. Try to establish all the basics before tweaking anything with the structure.

Title

Introduction:

- Include the full author and title name in your first sentence.
- Offer a tiny bit of context and background, but not more than 1-2 sentences.
- Present your thesis statement and a roadmap of what your paper will be doing in the next 3 paragraphs.

Body Paragraph 1

- With a beautiful topic sentence, introduce your first passage to close read.
- Block Quote of Passage 1.
- Close Reading 1: pull out literary devices and link form to content.
- Don't leave your close reading points hanging; show what effect they have and how they develop your reading of this passage.

Body Paragraph 2

- With a beautiful transition sentence, introduce your second passage to close read.
- Block Quote of Passage 2.
- Close Reading 2: pull out literary devices and link form to content.
- Don't leave your close reading points hanging; show what effect they have and how they develop your reading of this passage.
- Show how your analysis of Passage 2 is different from Passage 1. What are you adding to your argument in this paragraph?

Body Paragraph 3

- With a beautiful transition sentence, introduce your third passage to close read.
- Block Quote of Passage 3.
- Close Reading 3: pull out literary devices and link form to content.
- Don't leave your close reading points hanging; show what effect they have and how they develop your reading of this passage.
- Show how your analysis of Passage 3 is different from Passage 1 and Passage 2. Explain how your snowman is building and why things are getting richer and more complex. Point to differences and similarities.

Conclusion:

- Pull together your argument and revisit key terms.
- Expand outward and raise some questions. So what?
- Check your title!

After finishing your paper, read it aloud to look for any mistakes or grammar problems. Be sure that quotes are incorporated fluidly as we have been discussing in class. Make sure that you are always close reading in your body paragraphs rather than merely summarizing, describing, or translating the lines.

Checklist:

- Is your language formal and professional rather than casual and colloquial?
- Do you actually close read and identify literary devices in each of your body paragraphs?
- Are you making new meanings using your close readings and not merely listing literary devices?
- Do you requote important phrases and words in your close readings? “ ”
- Are you introducing quotes smoothly and preserving the grammar of your sentences?
- Are the points you are making original and not too obvious?
- What are the key terms of your argument!
- Make sure your own paragraphs are double-spaced and that only long block quotes are single-spaced.
- Make sure you are citing using MLA style to list your Works Cited at the end.
- Finally, circle 5 spots in your paper and revise with stronger vocabulary or better phrasing.

May 22

Your essay is due in Dropbox as a PDF and should also be included as part of your Anthology Project.