

Reading Journals

Utilizing an informal essay format, generate your opinions and observations on various course materials throughout the term.

OBJECTIVES

1. Show your comprehension of the reading materials for five items from syllabus.
2. Strengthen reading concepts and presentation of your observations before class.
3. Use full sentence format: roughly 300 words < *at least one full page*.
4. Isolate your impressions of the material read.
5. **Answer the following questions:**
 - What is the author's intentions and/or themes?
 - Is the piece mainly informative, persuasive, or entertainment? What purpose?
 - Does the audience agree or disagree with the author?
 - State why or why you do not like the essay: be very specific — *cite examples*.
 - What are the essay's weak points or major strengths?
6. Other items to include:
 - casual observations regarding the material
 - describe details which helped you relate (or not relate) to author
 - be as expressive & creative with your presentation: doodle, use emoticons, bold or italic text, add illustrations or photos; create an online blog
7. Choose from the following list of authors and creative works:
 - 06.11: Sandra Cisneros, "Only Daughter" p 97
 - 06.14: E. B. White, "Once More to the Lake" p 183
 - 06.15: Isabel Allende, "The Amazon Queen" *handout*
 - 06.16: N. Scott Momaday, "The Way to Rainy Mountain" *handout*
 - 06.17: Brent Staples, "Just Walk on By" p 236
 - 06.18: Arthur Miller, "Get it Right: Privatize Executions" p 299
 - 06.22: Robin Lakoff, "The Power of Words in Wartime" p 363
 - 06.25: Deborah Tannen, "Sex, Lies, and Conversation" p 436
 - 06.29: Stephanie Ericsson, "The Ways We Lie" p 485
 - 06.29: Jose Antonio Burciaga, "Tortillas" p 524"
 - 07.07: Virginia Woolf, "The Death of the Moth" *handout*
8. Exercises are due typed for date shown.