

English 210

Craft Paper Guidelines

Response essays should focus on one of three things: 1) the way a particular craft element discussed in class (e.g., image, metaphor, voice, character, setting, etc.) is being put to use; 2) why and how a particular image, phrase, line, etc., really struck you, and why/how it's effective; or 3) any craft-based question the poem or story raised for you. Please don't try to tackle every craft element in the piece. Focus on one element and really explore it.

Your Response Essays should not be summaries of what the story is about, nor should they attempt to uncover the themes/meanings within it, nor should they be litanies of what the poem or story reminded you of from your own life. Rather, these essays should engage critically with something we have read, asking the question "how/why did the author do that?" I want to know if you can unpack how the author wrote the story knowing what you know now about the process of writing fiction.

Response Essays will be graded.

An 'A' paper will fully engage—in other words, both ask and concretely answer—one of the above-mentioned questions, keeping in mind that authors choose each word deliberately. It will use examples from the text to underscore your point or points.

A 'B' paper will ask a good critical question and attempt to answer it, perhaps vaguely or with little support.

A 'C' paper will simply ask the question without answering it.

A 'D' paper will fail to focus on one of the questions above.

An 'F' is reserved for work that is either not turned in at all, or has no relevance whatsoever to the assignment.