

Close Reading Assignment Description

Due: Ongoing (see schedule)

Purpose

We will be exploring, encountering, and analyzing all kinds of texts this semester. The purpose of the close reading presentation is to give you a chance to practice the skills of analyzing a creative work (a very subjective and personal experience) and share your thoughts and ideas with others. Whether it is a print essay, a video essay, or a work of electronic literature, your thoughts and opinions are unique to you and being able to communicate these ideas will assist you in gaining confidence with textual analysis, as well as presenting your discoveries and leading a discussion with others.

Method

You will sign-up for a text of your choice the first week of class. The date listed on the sign-up sheet is the date of your presentation and discussion. What you choose to focus on and engage the class with from the reading is up to you but things you will want to include are:

1. Some background information about the author and the work (other works by this author, if it is part of a longer work, summary of the text, what software it was composed with, etc.)
2. A close-reading (in-depth) interpretation of one section (paragraph or lexia or scene) from your text and how it relates to concepts in creative nonfiction, print, video, or e-lit (description, dialogue, visual language, interactivity, etc.). You may read (or show) this section of your text. Then delve into details, metaphor, symbolism, specific quotes, etc. What struck you the most and why? How is this reading related to the current unit and course discussion?
3. Follow-up questions for the audience (at least 3) to prompt further discussion of the text.

Audience

Your instructor and your classmates. Remember, we have all read the text but want to hear **your** specific take on it.

Length & Format

Approximately 10-15 minutes (discussion will go longer) & presentation notes (any format but that you can turn in to me after your presentation). If you are presenting on a video essay or work of e-lit you may play/show a portion of the text (please let me know if you plan to do this so I can estimate class time). This assignment is worth **10%** of your final grade.