

English 111
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Winter 2012

Analysis Project, Draft 1
3-4 typed, doubled-spaced, stapled pages
Grade Scale: 100 points
Due: Wednesday, 2/22 in class

- Rationale

Analyzing a text will help you to think critically and to practice writing clear, thesis-driven prose.

- Instructions

You may or may not have completed this kind of assignment before. Please let me know if anything is unclear.

In 3-4 pages, find deeper meaning in one or two texts (no more than two). You can choose a song, a music video, a poem, a film, a short story, a painting, etc. Explain how your selected text works and describe what effect it has on readers/viewers/listeners.

When analyzing, your task is not to list every little thing that you find compelling. That would take many, many years! Rather, your goal is to shape a specific aspect of your response to a text into a single argument, an argument based on a central idea (thesis). You are welcome to work with ideas you explored in your reading responses.

You will know well the text that you choose to write about, having read it more than once (and most likely multiple times), annotated it, done some preliminary writing about it, and participated in class discussions/activities. As you draft, you should assume that your audience is familiar with the text, although she may not have the same level of knowledge of it that you do.

This is the first draft of three.

- Suggestions

Take your time selecting a text. You want one that is interesting, complex, and somehow important to you.

As you begin to take notes, consider both what the text says and how it says it. Through the text, what do you learn about the world? What do you learn about people or society? What is the author's diction like? How about sentence structure? Is there a significance to the characters and how they act with each other? What about the plot—is the story's ending or beginning particularly striking? What are the major turning points? Is there symbolism? Your project shouldn't try to answer all of these questions; I ask them to spark your thinking. Feel free to go back to the sheets we used in class to analyze music and poetry (available on eLearning).

As you draft, make specific reference to the text in each paragraph, and quote directly from it at least twice a page. For this draft, you do not need to include a "Works Cited" page. When you quote, use whatever page numbers you have in your copy of the material. Your quotations should look like this:

Carver concludes the opening portrait of Al with a simple, declarative sentence, saying at the end of a section, "This was Al" (200).

Imagine a general audience for your writing. Follow a pattern of organization, and obey the rules of grammar. Do not write less than three pages or more than four pages, and use a standard font and margins. Title your project and number its pages.

Choose a title that reflects your thesis; avoid calling it "Writing Assignment," "Analysis Project," etc.

Assessment

Does my project describe in detail what deeper meaning the text offers and how it makes that meaning?	30 points
Does it present a central, critical idea (thesis)?	30 points
Does it give evidence from the text in every paragraph (except the introduction and conclusion)?	20 points
Does each paragraph have but one claim/main idea?	10 points
Does the writing contain a minimum of grammar errors?	10 points
Total	100 points

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Analysis Project, Draft 1I
Due: 3/26 or 4/2*
Category: Essay Drafts
Grading Scale: 100 Points

As you know, your task for this project is to compose a minimum of 4-5 pages that analyzes a "text" (story, poem, song, etc.). As with your first draft, your goal in your second draft is to shape a specific aspect of your response to a text into a single argument, an argument based on a central idea.

Now that you have been working on this project a little bit, your ideas about your text are growing clearer. It's time, then, to revise your work: deepen your thinking, give your paragraphs a greater sense of organization, and make it easier for the reader to find and to appreciate your thesis.

Assessment

Does the first paragraph of my essay have a clear thesis that uses an action verb?	15 points
Does the body of my essay have at least 3 CPR paragraphs?	15 points
Does my essay discuss form as well as content (how as well as what)?	15 points
Does my essay describe how the form and the content relate to each other?	15 points
Does the reader feel like I have pushed my ideas as far as I possibly could?	10 points
Would a general reader who doesn't know my text still find my essay enjoyable and interesting to read?	10 points
Does my introduction get the reader's attention?	5 points
Even if it does not use a CPR structure, does each paragraph explore just one main idea?	5 points
If I provide background information, do I cite my source(s)?	5 points
Do I include a direct quotation from my text at least twice a page?	5 points
Total	100 points

* If you choose to hand in an analysis draft in on 4/2, you must hand in your TIB draft on 3/26.