

## ENGL 2112-100: Introduction to Literary Criticism

### Worksheet assignment

**Due: Daily**

**Worth: 1% of your final mark per worksheet (23% total)**

### The gist

Each day you will answer a series of brief questions designed to help you think about the reading for that day. These questions should be answered with regard to the day's main reading **and not with any reference to the author headnote or other reading for the day (such as the reading from the anthology's introduction).**

### Specifics

Copy the following questions into a new word processing and answer them with specific reference to today's reading.

1. In two or three sentences, summarize what you understand to be the writer's main argument. Refer only to the main reading, not to headnotes or to readings from the introduction.
2. In one or two sentences, specifically explain how this writer is engaged with this week's topic or with this week's school/movement.
  - a) If the reading comes from one of our "Issue/Topic" days (reading for any Friday or for the last week of class), **instead** explain how this text relates to themes we have explored leading up to it AND note how it departs from these concerns as well.
3. Identify one way in which the current text is in agreement with one of our previous texts. Identify one way in which the current text is in disagreement with one of our previous texts.
4. Using the alternative table of contents, identify a different school/movement or issue/topic (only for readings for Fridays or for the last week of class) that this text engages with. In two or three sentences, discuss how shifting the text's context to this other school/movement or issue/topic changes our perception of this text.
5. Identify two or three terms you do not understand, for further discussion in class. Note where these terms appear in the text so we may refer back to them.
6. Identify one term that seems to have special importance for the current text. This may be a common term given unusual meaning/stress or it may be a term that the writer has developed for him or herself. In one or two sentences, explain what this term means for this writer.

### Technicalities

- Your responses to each question should be well-written, in complete sentences/paragraphs where appropriate.
  - Likewise, you should edit, proofread, and spellcheck it (these are three separate tasks).
- Do not include any non-essential information in your responses. Where writers went to school, where they were born, or any other biographical information is non-essential. Likewise, simple discussions of schools of thought are likewise non-essential. We are trying to understand how writers contribute to theory, not how they conform to simple definitions that pre-exist them.
- In this spirit, do not refer to ANY outside texts. At all. Including Wikipedia and including any and all dictionaries.

- You should complete this assignment using MS Word or another word processor, upload it to D2L (as a .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf), and print a copy to bring to class to turn in.
  - If you do not upload to D2L or do not upload a document in the proper file format, you have not conformed to these guidelines.
- For each worksheet, you will receive either a check (✓), worth 1% of your final mark, or a check-minus (✓-), worth 0% of your final mark.
  - Failure to conform to these guidelines, turning in less-than-thoughtful work (or work similarly unsatisfactory), or failing to complete a worksheet will result in a check-minus mark.