

ENGL102 Reading Journals

Reading Journals

There are a variety of different types of journals. Some of you may keep a journal now to reflect on life experiences. You may have been asked to keep a journal in a class before. For this class your journals will focus on reflection of the reading you do each week and prep for writing assignments. Every week, as listed on the schedule, you will turn in a journal entry to me in response to the prompt for that class. Typically these will be about the readings and then ask for you to make some connection to the formal writing assignment we are working on.

Writing About Readings:

What should you write about? Basically, this is your chance to write about your thoughts on the readings you have done for the week. I will be looking for good analysis on your part. *What did you find most interesting? What were you surprised by? What did you agree with? Disagree with? What did you notice about how the essay was constructed? Was it convincing? Well developed? Supported?* You can write about any of these things as well as any other ideas or thoughts you may have. These journals SHOULD NOT BE SUMMARIES of the reading.

Special Topic Journals:

Some weeks, as listed on the schedule, I may have you do a special topic journal where instead of writing about an assigned reading for that class give you a specific prompt in the reading journal forum on blackboard to respond to. These are designed to assist you at different stages of your project throughout the semester. In these instances you should base your one page journal on fully responding to the given prompt.

Requirements:

- 1 Good analysis (see above) OR responds to the prompt on blackboard forum (if a special topic week)
- 2 At least 1 full page typed, double-spaced

How I will Evaluate Your Reading Journals/Discussion Boards

I am using something called "spec" grading to evaluate and assign a grade for your work on reading journals. The grade is the result of quantity--or just doing what I'm asking you to do--and to a lesser extent, quality. As explained in the syllabus, your work on your journals/discussions will determine 15% of your final grade.

In order to earn a "B" grade for that 15%

- You must complete 7 out of the 8 assigned journals at an "acceptable" level. There is no wiggle room on this.

An "acceptable" journal will respond to the prompt.

An "acceptable" journal is at least 1 full page. It can't be under.

In order to earn an "A" grade for that 15%

- You must meet all of the requirements identified above for a "B" grade for all 8 journals.

In order to earn a "C" grade for that 15%

- You must meet all of the requirements identified above for a "B" grade for 6 journals.

Anything below 4 acceptable journals and you will earn an F for that 15%.

