

Workshop 2.2: Close Reading the Close Reading

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Using your ideas in papers 2.1 and 2.2, continue to develop your main claim about your text and the support and details you will use in your final paper. As always, consider what your audience will think or how they will react to your writing and your analysis. Keep in mind that paper 2.3 Close Reading Of is a more formal, academic “genre” of writing.

For this workshop, exchange copies of your 2.2 draft with your peers. Keep in mind that these are not finished, polished products—do not spend too much time worrying about grammar, spelling, or punctuation. What you want to pay attention to is the writer’s main idea, claim, close reading, details, and quotes. Use the following questions and writing tips as you read your peer’s paper (and as you reread your own paper later). Write as many related suggestions as you can on your peer’s paper.

The Selected Text

Before you read the paper, spend a few minutes familiarizing yourself with your peer’s selected text and passages. Note a handful of details that **you** might analyze, critique, notice as important if it were **your** project.

The Close Reading

Next, read the paper with a critical eye, thinking about the questions that follow. Write a brief assessment of the writer’s **analysis and attention to detail**, commenting on the following and answering these question on the back of this sheet:

META: Does the writer satisfy the goals of the assignment? What really works or stands out? What gave you difficulty?

GLOBAL: What is the paper’s main argument or claim? Is the paper well-organized?

Where does the writer provide effective **analysis**? Where does the writer paraphrase or summarize too much, instead of *analyzing*?

PARAGRAPH: Does the paper use the paragraph sandwich? The quotation sandwich?

Where does the writer make too many generalizations instead of specifically commenting on **details** of the text?

Does the writer employ a **variety of analytical lenses** to make her/his interpretation? (For example, analysis of: wording, structure/form, argumentation strategies, appeals to audience, tone, binaries, anomalies, strands, other ways of analyzing a text). Suggest other lenses that the writer should consider using. Give an example of where and how s/he can use it, if possible!

Where in the paper were you left saying “**so what?**”—where should the analysis be expanded?

Final Read Through

Finally, if there is time, consider ways the writer can sharpen, polish, and finish their paper.

SENTENCE: Is the writing clear? Are special terms defined? Are sentences complete? Is the language appropriate and understandable? Proofread for grammatical errors.

MECHANICS: Check spelling. Check punctuation, particularly citation and bibliographic format. Check formatting.