

Workshop 2.2.2: Close Reading Analysis

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Using your ideas in papers 2.2, 2.2.1, and 2.2.2, 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 2.5 Close Reading Of is a more formal, academic “genre” of writing.

For this workshop, exchange copies of your 2.2.2 revision 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

1. Before you read the paper, spend 5-10 minutes looking at your peer’s selected text and passages. Write down 3-5 details that **you** might analyze, critique, notice as important if it were **your** project.

The Close Reading

2. 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 (make corresponding marks on the paper as necessary, for clarification):

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

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

—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!

—What are some of the important **implications** the writer points out—what are the stakes of her/his interpretation?

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

—What are *other* important implications does the topic make you think about, that the writer might consider addressing? What **key themes/problems** might s/he explore further?

3. Finally, scan the source once more and mark additional details that would help your peer support her/his points or that would complicate or augment her/his points.