ENG 110

Professor Michael

In Class Formal Essay #1: Close Reading

In the last class, we practiced annotation strategies in the service of developing a close reading. In this essay, you will draw on that activity to write a close-reading of the poem we annotated together. In a close reading, you use the details of a poem or passage in order to make an argument about what the poem or passage means in a broader sense.

* Paragraph 1: Summarize

Summarize the poem in your own words, identify the central theme of the poem, and discuss its significance (to you). What is the main idea that the author is trying to convey and why is it important?

* Paragraph 2: Evidence

Support your description with details in the text. Quote lines from the poem to illustrate your points, and discuss the quotes. How does the quote develop the main idea of the poem?

* Paragraph 3: Reflect and Conclude

Reflect on the art of losing. Do any of her lines resonate with your experience of loss?

Students will complete this essay in class. You will have an hour to write the essay and may use any handouts, notes, and informal writing from class.

I encourage you to develop your essay as much as you can in the time available. Your goal is to fill the front and back of a piece of loose-leaf paper, but communicating ideas clearly is the most important thing.

REMEMBER: Have fun—writing is a chance to express yourself, discover new ideas, and reflect. Writing is learning. Making mistakes and taking chances is part of writing—that is the only way you will improve as a writer.