

Close Reading Essays // Due 9/29 and 10/27

FROM SYLLABUS: Students will submit two close reading essays (3-4 pages each or about 750 to 1,000 words) with short companion videos (about 1 minute in length), posted PRIVATE at the course website. These critical essays will focus on a poem or short piece of writing from one of the featured authors and must include at least one relevant quotation from Edward Hirsch's book on American poetry. Students must interpret a different author each time. Essays must analyze **text, context, and subtext**, relying on at least three sources and incorporating Chicago-style footnotes. The essay posts must also include 2 to 3 images, properly captioned and credited with embedded companion videos that use a clear voice-over reading from the document paired with a music track, relevant images, and a credit slide. Students **MUST** submit at least one full or partial DRAFT of their essays to Prof. Pinsker before EACH due date, and they **MUST** visit the Writing Center before at least ONE of the close reading assignments. Essays will be graded on research effort, depth of analysis and quality of prose. The first close reading is due **by 5pm on Monday, September 29**. The second is due **by 5pm on Monday, October 27**. Late essays will be penalized up to 5 points per day.

CHECKLIST (<https://blogs.dickinson.edu/fys-pinsker/assignments/close-reading-essays/>)

- Choose a poem featured on the syllabus (about 32 options)
- Review student models for both essays and videos at the assignment page online
- You **MUST** submit drafts (at least openings) to Pinsker by email before BOTH deadlines
- Visit Writing Center before at least ONE assignment deadline
- Review handouts from Methods Center for thesis statements, quotations, footnotes, etc.
- Review Hacker & Sommers for additional guidance on writing and grammar basics
- Register at course site and follow guidelines for Wordpress posting
- Create a POST (not page) categorized as CLOSE READING
- Make sure your online essay post contains 2 to 3 captioned & credited images
- Make sure your online essay has a clear structure (title, byline, sub-headings, etc.)
- Organize around our class mantra: **TEXT, CONTEXT, SUBTEXT**
- Essays need quotes from at least THREE sources (including poem and Hirsch book)
- Make sure your footnotes are formatted in proper Chicago-style (see samples / handouts)
- No plagiarism! Guard especially against paraphrasing that borrows words.
- Embed a companion video on the Wordpress post (via CODE tab or provide public link)
- Videos (produced in WeVideo) should have a title slide, your reading from the poem, public domain music, well selected images, nice production effects, and a credit slide
- Contact INTERNS for video help and LIBRARY LIAISON for research assistance
- Make sure to publish your post PRIVATE by 5pm on the due dates
- If you are going to be late by more than a few hours, contact Prof. Pinsker by email
- Make NO CHANGES to your post after midnight on the due dates
- Late essays will be penalized up to 5 points per day