

One-Pagers

These mini papers are opportunities for you to try out possible formulations of questions and responses to issues raised in this class. Your paper should engage a major or minor theme of the course, address readings from the week during which you submit it, and present specific, focused argument that demonstrates your ability to think critically about the readings and ideas/information introduced in class. You should aim to produce a seed argument that could be expanded to produce a final paper.

A FEW WORDS OF ADVICE:

- Begin with a line of inquiry that develops out of what you find interesting, wrong-headed, surprising, or thought-provoking about the readings you've done. But don't stop with an evaluation.
- Be sure to articulate the question, problem, or issue that you are addressing as clearly as you present your argument in response to it.
- Don't waste precious page-space summarizing. It is very important that you demonstrate understanding of others' ideas and positions adequate for your purposes, but your focus should be on what you can do with the ideas others have brought to your attention.
- Keep in mind that this is not about filling a page. It is about formulating a path of inquiry, crafting a brief, persuasive argument, and revising and editing that down to maximize its effectiveness in a concise form.

FORMATTING AND DOCUMENTATION

- 1 single-spaced page in Times New Roman 12 pt with 1 inch margins
- All sources must be cited (in text and in a bibliography on a separate page). MLA is the standard for literary scholarship, but as long as you document your sources clearly and consistently you may use other systems.

EVALUATION

These papers will not be graded, but revised one-pagers submitted as part of your final portfolio will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- The argument is appropriately complex, based in a claim that emerges from and explores a line of inquiry.
- The stakes of the argument, why what is being argued matters, are articulated and persuasive.
- The argument involves analysis (close reading), which is the close scrutiny and examination of assumptions and textual evidence in support of a larger set of ideas.
- The writing is intertextual, meaning that a "conversation" between texts and ideas is created in support of the writer's goals.
- The writing has a clear understanding of its audience, and various aspects of the writing (mode of inquiry, content, structure, evidence, appeals, tone, sentences, and word choice) address and are strategically pitched to that audience.

GROUPS AND DUE DATES

Papers *must be posted to the discussion board by 5pm* on the Mondays and Wednesdays listed below.

Group 1: Tara, Brenda, Courtney	10/9, 10/18, 10/30, 11/8
Group 2: Grace, Jennifer Rose	10/11, 10/23, 11/1, 11/13
Group 3: Nicole, Chelsey, Mi-Hanh	10/16, 10/25, 11/6, 11/15