

Assignment Template:

All materials handed in for grade MUST have the following information either in a header or on a separate cover sheet.

Your name

Your student ID #

Course Name

Instructor's Name

Assignment Title

Your Subtitle (where applicable, as on the Remix or Essay Outline and Essay assignments)

Date Submitted:

READING JOURNAL

Learning Outcomes:

- COLLECT your observations, questions, musings about specific texts;
- ORGANIZE these ideas in clear, readable form;
- WORKSHOP questions;
- EXTRAPOLATE from class discussions;
- APPLY insights to new contexts;
- INCORPORATE insights and conceptual tools from secondary reading;
- PREPARE for class discussion;
- ENGAGE with the texts in a sustained way;
- MAP your growing understanding;
- REFLECT on your learning.

HELPFUL RESOURCES AND EXAMPLES:

University of South Florida, Dr. Pinsky's Tips on writing Reading Journals:

<http://chuma.cas.usf.edu/~pinsky/journaling.htm>

University of Washington, "Integrating Reading: Keeping Reading Journals":

<https://www.uwb.edu/wacc/what-we-do/resources/reading/journals>

Colorado State University, "Journals and Reflective Writing" (a lengthy but very helpful book chapter):

<https://wac.colostate.edu/books/involved/chapter4.pdf>

Detailed Instructions Begin Next Page

INSTRUCTIONS:

The Reading Journal is intended to be a workshop space where you can gather your thoughts, make observations, and apply your new skills and ideas to the texts in question. It is intended to produce and demonstrate sustained engagement with the texts. Consider the Reading Journal a sort of workshop space, rather than a repetition or play-by-play of classroom activities. Use your journal to prepare for class and to reflect on and integrate ideas, questions and skills that arise during class.

MINIMUM LENGTH: THREE (3) entries of min. 500w each.

1. CHOOSE THREE (3) texts from the course syllabus;
2. ROUGH NOTES: for each text, create a “dual entry” page. On the LEFT side record initial impressions of the text, thoughts and questions that arise as you are reading. On the RIGHT side of the page, add commentary on those initial impressions based on classroom experience and additional thinking.
 - In this format you will be able to capture the immediacy of the reading experience and demonstrate reflection and the integration of new information in order to map your growing understanding and explore and interrogate more deeply your initial reactions.
3. READING REFLECTION: using your rough notes, WRITE a min. 500-word discussion of the text. Include questions that you began with and any answers you came up with, any particular insights that arose from your experience with the text, any ideas about how the text fits into the larger themes of the course.

YOU WILL HAND IN FOR GRADE:

1. The assignment template from the top of this document as the first page of the Reading Journal;
2. Your ROUGH note pages;
3. Your reading reflections (You may put these at the end or with their respective rough notes);
4. A WORKS CITED in proper MLA format.
5. STAPLE in the upper left-hand corner.

ASSESSMENT:

- Concision, clear language, appropriate format, paragraph and sentence structure appropriate to the chosen format;
- Tidiness, care for presentation;
- Accurate MLA citation and documentation;
- Detailed references to the texts;
- Evidence of application of ideas, conceptual tools, definitions etc. to the texts;
- Evidence of reflection on the learning process where appropriate;
- Integration of initial responses, classroom experience
- Evidence of intellectual commitment and curiosity.