

Close Reading Paper #1 Assignment

Choose one of the poems from the "Rose Poems" collection (excepting the Gertrude Stein line). On the first page, summarize the poem. On the second page, perform a close reading of a selected section of the poem that seems particularly rich in significance.

Format: Two pages, double-spaced, paginated, with an easy-to-read font of normal size (11 or 12, depending). At the top of the first page, place your title (create your own—do not steal the poem's) and your name.

This assignment does not call for a Works Cited page. When you cite poetic lines, provide the line number(s) afterwards, in parenthesis. Here are examples: (3) and (1-3). Use slash marks (/) to show line breaks; if a poetic citation is four lines or more, block quote it.

Summary: Elaborate the meaning of the poem, taking care not only to identify what you see as most important, but also to spell out the implications. The goal is not to reword the poem, though some paraphrasing may be necessary. You do not need to cite the poem in the summary.

The more insights you can pack into one page, the better your summary will be. These insights should be organized around a clear thesis. Do not exceed one page.

Close Reading: Transition smoothly from summary to close reading.

Choose a particular section of the poem—a stanza, a line, a phrase, a metaphor, an image—that seems to you especially resonant with meaning. Read what you have chosen meticulously and discuss what function it serves in the poem.

The more of the details of the section you discuss, the better the close reading will be. But do not exceed one page.

Use poetic terminology not just for its own sake, but to strengthen and sharpen your reading.