

What I'm Reading Blog

Andrea Lunsford, who edited *The Everyday Writer*, once said that students are reading and writing more now than ever before in history. So, why not write about the things you're already reading? One purpose behind English 101 and 102 is to make you more aware of the things you're taking in, to help you ask critical questions about the things you receive on a daily basis. Another purpose is to broaden what you read, to expose you to things you wouldn't have found on your own.

At six points throughout the semester (just about every other Friday), you'll write a 500-750 word blog post about something you've read in the past two weeks.

Rules:

- The text you write about must be at least 750 words of text (about 1.5 pages). If you find something fascinating but short, you can plead your case, but I have to approve it in advance.
- You can't use something from the same platform more than twice. Read: no more than two posts about something from Medium, ESPN, or your favorite romance novel. *Broaden. Those Horizons.*
- You don't have to write about something we read in class. In fact, I'd prefer your posts come from things you find interesting in your everyday life, because that's what you'll continue reading after our class is over.
- Blogs must be posted by class time on the Friday that they're due. I read all your posts but grade them for completion the first time around.
- At the end of the semester, you'll choose your favorite two to revise and turn in with your portfolio.

How to:

- Begin with a summary of the important information. What does your reader need to know to understand your analysis? (This should be no more than 250 words.)
- As you start analyzing, you might use one or more of these questions as a jumping off point.
 1. What assumptions does the author make about his/her reader? Is that an okay assumption to make? Is there anything troubling about that assumption?
 2. What does where the text was published tell you about the text itself—its intended audience, its format, etc.? In other words, think about the text's genre and what that tells you about it.
 3. How would you define the writer's style? What kinds of choices do they make with words/phrases/sentences that help you define it?
 4. How does this compare with a text (including video) we've examined in class, or a discussion we've had? What connections can you make between them?
- I like to end blog posts either with questions I still have and want to think through, or with a summary of the final point I'm trying to make as firmly and clearly as I can state it.