

English 201-section 1303 Introduction to Literature
Instructor: Yolande Brener
Poetry Assignment

This assignment is due by March 15th and should be 750-800 words. Please submit via Blackboard. Please include MLA in-text citations and a list of Works Cited

In this essay you will present a personal reaction, opinion or analysis of one or more poems. You can choose any of the poems in the textbook, but it might help if you choose one of the poems we discuss in class. You can choose any of the following options for this assignment:

1. Analyze in depth a particular poem. You can talk about the structure, the meaning, the appearance on the page, the symbolism, the way it connects to the writer's life, or any other aspect of the poem that inspires you.
2. Compare two poems by different authors, either contemporaries (who were writing at the same time) or poets who lived in different eras. Compare the structure, themes, use of language or anything else that strikes you. Do certain themes such as love and death remain constant? Do historical poets express messages that are relevant today?
3. Choose several works by a particular poet and talk about what binds them together. What is it about the voice of individual writers that makes them recognizable? What do you like or dislike about the poet you have chosen? What themes does this poet work with and how does this relate to their life?
4. Write a poem inspired by one of the poems in the textbook. If you choose this option you will need to write a page (200-250 words) explaining what inspired you in the original poem, and how you have used it to create a new work.
5. Compare classical poetry forms to newer poetry forms such as spoken word, erasure poems, found poems, or rap. Compare the structure, method of presentation, audience, and purpose.
6. Maybe you don't like poetry and don't relate to any of the works we have looked at so far. Write an opinion piece stating why you feel this way. Use examples, citing sections from poems we have looked at. The Oxford English Dictionary defines poetry as "Literary work in which the expression of feelings and ideas is given intensity by the use of distinctive style and rhythm." If the literary works called poems don't appeal to you, what—for you—epitomizes these qualities of beauty, intensity and emotion?

A first draft or written description of your idea is due by March 6th for peer review.
The final paper is due by March 15th.

Rubric

A –The essay is interesting, original, and focused. It is easy to follow, has a clear beginning, middle and end and sticks to the point. The writing shows comprehension of work we have studied in class.

B— Paper is mostly consistent and interesting but lacks focus in parts, or is difficult to follow. The writing shows some comprehension of work we have studied in class.

C— Paper is somewhat consistent and has some points of interest but is mostly confusing. The writing shows little comprehension of work we have studied in class.

D — Paper shows some effort but either doesn't use textbook material or does not make sense.

F— There is no paper.