

Journal Assignment

For this assignment, you will need to prepare a reading journal. This journal will be turned in near the end of the semester and will be graded as an entirety. All journal can be entered into the same notebook and/or collected in the same folder. They do not need to be typed and will not be graded on grammar or spelling. These are expected to be quick, stream-of-conscious writings that “prime” your mind for class discussion, so **do not** spend considerable time on them.

You will need to keep a reading journal in which you write an entry for each class period for each of the assigned readings. For the first entry, respond to *Poet X* as a whole. I suggest you do so in a notebook dedicated to this assignment, because you will need to be continually updating it, and you should bring it to class. There is no special format for what these reading entries look like. However, you should provide both of the following:

- **1. A short summary of what the readings were generally about.**
 - No need to get too specific.
 - Try to pull out what you think the major topics or concepts in the readings were.
- **2. A general account of what your personal reactions were to the readings.**
 - What was your first response? Were you interested? Angry? Sad? Bored? Why?
 - No need to get too in-depth here. I just want to know what your first gut reaction is.

A sufficient entry for a reading journal entry would be a half page.

You will need to be prepared to read your reading entries aloud in class. At the start of discussing the readings, I may ask for volunteers or randomly calling on people to share what they wrote, so you will always need to bring your journal to class so you can share.

Grading

The journal is intended to improve classroom participation. Hence, if you do not have a journal entry when I call on you, your classroom participation grade for that day will be reduced.

If you show a good faith effort to do the assigned work and complete the readings on time, you will receive an A (100%) on this assignment. Failing to do so will result in a lower grade depending on my judgment of how much of the semester coursework was completed: either a B (85%), a C (75%), a D (60%) or an E (0%).

Your journal will be collected near the end of the semester and will comprise 10% of your course grade.