

SELECTING A PASSAGE FOR CLOSE READING

ENGL 108 / SEC. H & I / SUMMER LEAP 2009 / OLDHAM & RUBASKY / CHANG & LEE



As we have discussed, a close reading assignment asks you to pay very close attention to one or two small sections of a text. However, the truth is that some passages are just easier and more productive to close read than others. Passages that are interesting to you, that are pivotal moments in the text, and that use dramatic, figurative or otherwise exciting language, for example, will be better choices than an obvious or dull passage in a text. Selecting a passage for close reading requires attention to detail, to organization, to argument, to language, and to your own interests and interpretations.

We will begin by practicing with Freire’s “The Banking Concept of Education.” As you read the essay tonight, think about potential passages that you might be interested in close reading. Remember: if it isn’t interesting to you, it will not likely be interesting to the reader, so it is crucial that you pick a passage that can engage your attention for a while. Tonight, you need to **pick out your top three favorite passages**. **You will hand this sheet in with your Close Reading Proposal Worksheet on Wednesday.**

Keep an eye out for any of the following features and things or interest—their presence might suggest that you have found an appropriate passage to close read:

- **Language:** similes, metaphor, irony, sarcasm, exaggeration, understatement, confusing terms, new terms, concrete images, patterns.
- **Content:** find the claim; facts that surprise or intrigue you; things that seem inconsistent; facts or explanations that remind you of something else, images or statements that allow you to connect with them personally.
- **Your Own Response:** something that makes you feel sad or shocked or happy; something that you think just sounds really good; something that you wish you had written!

Keywords: _____ Page #: _____
Passage 1 Brief Summary:

Why you think it is interesting:

Keywords: _____ Page #: _____
Passage 2 Brief Summary:

Why you think it is interesting:

Keywords: _____ Page #: _____
Passage 3 Brief Summary:

Why you think it is interesting:

Approved By (please print and initial): _____