

**21W.022.03      Spring 2014      Workshop Essay #3 Instructions**

**Note: Download this form and type responses to each writer. (No handwritten forms!)**

**Alternately, if you prefer, type letters to writers addressing the questions on the form.**

**Workshop: Session 20.**

**Due:** Marked-up essays and individual response forms/letters (two copies-for classmates and instructor). We will review one essay together and the rest in small groups. Email essays to your group by Monday afternoon; I will send out the essay we are reviewing in common.

Your workshop assignment is to review each essay and type either the form or a letter (1 -1 ½ pages) to each writer. Also make marginal comments on the essays. Include specific suggestions for improving each essay. **I have bolded new questions specific to the Essay #3 workshop.**

1. How well do the title and introduction engage you? Does the writer's tone seem appropriate to the topic? How well does the introduction set a context for the essay?
2. How well does the essay vividly present and reflect upon life experience? Comment on the quality of any specific creative writing techniques (e.g., dialogue, internal monologue, day-in-the-life or reconstructed diary, letter form, use of metaphor, etc.) **Suggest any techniques that could improve the narrative of this essay.**
3. Are there any aspects of the experience that seem undeveloped? What else do you, as a reader, want to know? Does the essay (a) connect this experience with wider human concerns (b) present a clear perspective on the experience?
4. Is the piece clearly organized? Are there any sections or paragraphs (or sentences within paragraphs) that could be reordered or omitted?
5. **Comment on the overall quality of topic sentences in the essay. Make suggestions (in the margins of the essays) for improving weaker topic sentences.**
6. **Comment on the general quality of transitions in the essay. Make suggestions (in the margins) for improving confusing or ineffective transitions.**
7. **To what degree does the writer use vivid and original language as well as vary sentence length and patterns? Note (in margins) if the essay has: clichés, repetitive word usage and/or sentence structure, repetitive sentence length, run-on or wordy sentences, short, choppy sentences, and/or sentence fragments.**
8. **In the essay's margins, mark any of the following grammar/punctuation problems: homophone errors, dangling modifiers, incorrect usage of commas/semicolons. Mark repetitive errors once; let the author find other instances of the error/problem.**
9. How memorable is the conclusion? **Does the conclusion connect well with the intro?**

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