

21W.731- SPRING 2004- NONFICTION (ESSAY) # 4 REVIEW GUIDELINES
WORKSHOP- THURS. 5/6

Due: Response letters to group members (copies for instructor).

Note: Pay very careful attention to the author's use of the "tools of fiction" (question 2) in crafting a piece of creative nonfiction.

Here are some questions for you to consider:

1. Do the title and introduction engage you as a reader? Do the writer's style of narration (first person, third person), form (e.g prose, journal) and tone seem appropriate to the piece?
2. How well does the essay use the tools of fiction to vividly present and reflect upon a life experience (either that of the author or of someone else)? Comment on the author's use of time, setting, character and dialogue. Are there any aspects of the experience that seem unclear or undeveloped?
3. Does the essay (a) connect this experience with wider human issues (b) offer a clear perspective on the experience presented? (If relevant) How well does the author integrate and quote from secondary sources? Are there any secondary sources that you might suggest? (Secondary sources are not absolutely required in this piece. However, there are particular arguments that will need the support of outside sources.)
4. Is the essay clearly organized so that you can follow the movement of thought? Are there any sections or paragraphs that would work better if reordered? Does the writer transition effectively from one paragraph or section to the next?
5. How effective is the conclusion in (a) dynamically closing the piece and/or (b) opening up reflection to broader issues?
6. Are there any ways in which the author might strengthen the piece on the paragraph or sentence level? Comment on the author's use of metaphor, if relevant.

P.S. It may be helpful to have a copy of the essay assignment sheet (or "prompt") as you review these essays..