

ENGL 2530 Assignment Sheet for Close Reading Paper

You will write one 500-word close reading paper for this class. You will build up your skills for this paper through the writing exercises you complete during the first two months of the class. Follow the directions below.

Due Date: October 14

Directions: First, select the reading for your close reading paper. You have four options:

- (1) select one passage (5–15 lines) from *Lanval*
- (2) select one passage (5–15 lines) from *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
- (3) select one assigned poem by William Blake
- (4) select one assigned sonnet

This is the passage/poem for your close reading paper. Type out the entire passage/poem at the top of your paper.

Then, write a 500-word paper in which you develop a close reading of your selected passage. You need not have a central argument or thesis; what I'm looking for is a detailed close reading and analysis of the language of the passage. Of course, you may have a central point/conclusion/thesis if you'd like, but this isn't a standard kind of English paper—it's an exercise in your close reading skills and ability to write clearly and effectively. No outside research, historical context, autobiography, etc., is required for this paper, though you're free to do so if you'd like, and you may need to look up words you don't know or reference information from my lectures and class discussions. Your paper should have discrete paragraphs with topic sentences, and you should use the writing skills you learned in ENGL 1010 and 1020 to craft your paper in a clear, organized, and effective manner.

You may have done a close reading essay in a previous literature class here at AUM, or perhaps in high school. Or maybe not. Here a few good explanations/examples of close reading. You can also come talk to me about close reading strategies and writing.

<https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/how-do-close-reading>

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/subject_specific_writing/writing_in_literature/poetry_close_reading.html

<https://writing.wisc.edu/handbook/assignments/closereading/>