

Short Position Papers

Five Due by October 7th

Five Due by December 4th

In-depth reading is best accompanied by writing about your reading. Throughout the semester, you will write **10 Short Position Papers (1-2 pages)** that focus on texts read for class.

These short position papers should have a **central argument** about a text, **specific details** chosen from the text to support that argument, and be as **well-developed** as can reasonably be accomplished in 1-2 pages. They will be graded on a simple **pass/fail** basis. **If you fail any of the response papers, it will not count towards your required 10. The position paper you submit when you lead class discussion will count toward your required ten.**

Five of these short position papers should be submitted prior to the midterm and **five** should be submitted after the midterm. Finally, the short position papers *must be submitted prior to class discussion* over the text and **no more than two** short position papers can be submitted in one class period.

I strongly encourage you to look at the list below to begin to plan out, along with your own schedule, when you want to write your short position papers throughout the semester. As always, the semester certainly gets busier towards the end, so please prepare for that as well.

1. Jonathan Edwards, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"
2. Benjamin Franklin, "The Way to Wealth," *Autobiography* (selections)
3. Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Self-Reliance"
4. Henry David Thoreau, "Economy," "Where I Lived"
5. Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown"
6. Edgar Allan Poe, "William Wilson," "Man of the Crowd"
7. Frederick Douglass, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?"
8. Walt Whitman, "Song of Myself," "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"
9. Herman Melville, *Benito Cereno*
10. Emily Dickinson, selections
11. Mark Twain, "The Man Who Corrupted Hadleyburg"
12. Kate Chopin, "Story of an Hour"
13. Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"
14. Stephen Crane, "The Blue Hotel"
15. Charles Chesnutt, "Dave's Neckliss"
16. Paul Laurence Dunbar, "We Wear the Mask"
17. Claude McKay, "If We Must Die"
18. Langston Hughes, "The Weary Blues" "Negro Speaks of Rivers"
19. Robert Frost, "Directive," "Mending Wall"
20. Sherwood Anderson, "Hands"
21. Wallace Stevens, "Anecdote of the Jar," "Sunday Morning"
22. T.S. Eliot, "Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"
23. F. Scott Fitzgerald, "Absolution," "Winter Dreams"
24. William Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily"
25. Flannery O'Connor, "Good Country People"
26. Ernest Hemingway, "A Clean Well-Lighted Place"
27. John Cheever, "The Swimmer"
28. Raymond Carver, "A Small Good Thing," "Cathedral"
29. Alice Walker, "Everyday Use"
30. Junot Diaz, "Drown"

31. Jhumpa Lahiri, "Sexy"
32. David Foster Wallace, "A Radically
Condensed History of Postindustrial
Life," *Infinite Jest* (selections)