

ANTH 272 / ENGL 264: How to Approach a Reading Response

Thanks to Grant Glass for drafting the content of this handout

From time to time, we will ask you to write a reading response, it is your responsibility to look at the class schedule for the recitation calendar to see when these are due. These are short (<300 words) commentaries in which you carefully observe one small part of a text. This is an opportunity to look carefully and to think about the text as a construction: to consider not only **what** a text is expressing but also **how** it is expressing it. You can choose any text assigned so far in the class.

This handout offers some terms and concepts to help you in the process of observation.

Please complete and post your reading response to our course website by midnight before recitation section, i.e. by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday (1/26/20). Come to class/recitation ready to talk about your response.

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OBSERVATION: Consider the *Aspects of Formalist Criticism** as you read:

- **Character:**
 - *Flat*: usually presents one idea or quality, doesn't tend to change
 - *Round or dynamic*: complex, contradictory, changing, subtle variations in personality
- **Point of View:**
 - *First- person narrators*
 - Self-conscious: aware that s/he is telling a story
 - Unreliable: what the narrator relates might be at odds with other characters or the 'reality' of the text
 - Innocent: doesn't fully comprehend the implications of the events s/he is relating
 - *2nd person or 3rd person*
 - Omniscient: access to the thoughts and actions of all characters
 - limited omniscient: access to the thoughts and actions of some characters.
- **Setting**: the general local, historical time, and social circumstances of the narrative
- **Symbol**: a word, phrase, situation, action or object that has meaning beyond itself
- **Tone:**
 - *Diction*: words, phrases, sentence structure, and figurative language
 - *Irony*

- verbal: the difference between what a character says and what s/he intends
 - situational: incongruity between what happens and what is expected
 - dramatic: the author and audience have insights the characters do not
- **Theme**: general claim, sometimes implicit sometimes overt, with which a text persuades its readers
- **Tropes**: figurative use of language such as simile, metaphor, personification, etc.

CLOSE READING PROCESS

In writing about literature or any specific text, you will strengthen your discussion or argument if you offer specific passages from the text as evidence. Rather than simply dropping in quotations and expecting their significance and relevance to your argument to be self-evident, you need to provide sufficient analysis of the passage. Remember that your goal in analytic writing is to demonstrate some new understanding of the text.

1. What is the genre of a text? Ethnography, nonfiction, memoir, scientific article, poem, film—?
2. Find a passage that seems rich with significance, perhaps puzzling, perhaps disturbing, in some way a “hot spot” that stands out in the text. Read the passage again.
3. Circle key words: words that you don’t understand (look them up!), words that are repeated, words that appeal to your senses, words that stand out as striking, strange, curious.
4. Double underline punctuation or sentence variation that strikes you. (None may strike you, but then perhaps find a different, richer passage?)
5. Ask questions of the passage: what might the writer mean calling your attention to “x”? Try to answer your question explaining why words, phrases, or punctuation drew your attention.
6. Pay attention to feeling. Is there a mood that arises from the writing? Do you have particular responses to it – find it amusing, disturbing, distasteful, embarrassing, confusing, upsetting--?
7. Do you see a theme, or themes, emerging? Make a list.
8. Note connections between this passage and the rest of the text. Link it to a similar passage (one with the same theme) and a dissimilar one (one on another theme). What do you notice from this juxtaposition?
9. Make connections between this text and other texts, issues, concepts, or terms that we’ve covered in this class.
10. Focus on WHY. Why is this important to note and share with your reader?

NUTS AND BOLTS

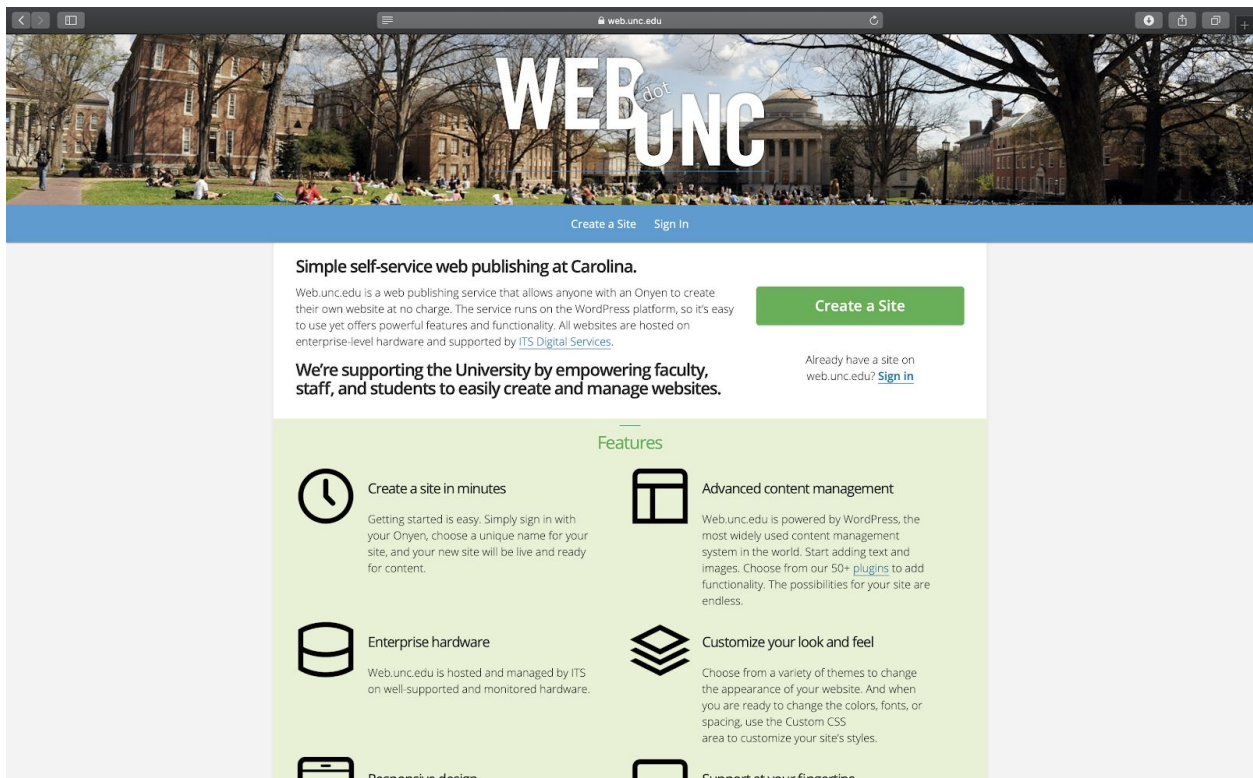
Make sure to follow the formatting rules listed on this website:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html.

*from MH Abrahms's *Glossary of Literary Terms*, 5th ed. Fort Worth, TX: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1988.

How to Post Your Reading Responses

1. Go to web.unc.edu

A screenshot of the web.unc.edu homepage. The browser address bar shows "web.unc.edu". The main header features a large image of a university campus with the text "WEB dot UNC" overlaid. Below the header is a blue navigation bar with "Create a Site" and "Sign In" links. The main content area has a white background with a green "Create a Site" button. Text describes the service as "Simple self-service web publishing at Carolina" and lists features like "Create a site in minutes", "Advanced content management", "Enterprise hardware", "Customize your look and feel", "Responsive design", and "Support at your fingertips".

Simple self-service web publishing at Carolina.

Web.unc.edu is a web publishing service that allows anyone with an Onyen to create their own website at no charge. The service runs on the WordPress platform, so it's easy to use yet offers powerful features and functionality. All websites are hosted on enterprise-level hardware and supported by ITS Digital Services.

[Create a Site](#)

We're supporting the University by empowering faculty, staff, and students to easily create and manage websites.

Already have a site on web.unc.edu? [Sign In](#)

Features

- Create a site in minutes**
Getting started is easy. Simply sign in with your Onyen, choose a unique name for your site, and your new site will be live and ready for content.
- Advanced content management**
Web.unc.edu is powered by WordPress, the most widely used content management system in the world. Start adding text and images. Choose from our 50+ [plugins](#) to add functionality. The possibilities for your site are endless.
- Enterprise hardware**
Web.unc.edu is hosted and managed by ITS on well-supported and monitored hardware.
- Customize your look and feel**
Choose from a variety of themes to change the appearance of your website. And when you are ready to change the colors, fonts, or spacing, use the Custom CSS area to customize your site's styles.
- Responsive design**
- Support at your fingertips**

2. Go to "Sign In" and use your onyen.



Onyen

Password

Remember Me

Log In

[Lost your password?](#)

[← Back to WEBdotUNC](#)

3. After you sign in, you should see a page that lists "My sites" *yours will look a little different than this

My sites

[Graduate and Professional Student Federation](#)

Advocate | Collaborate | Connect
[gpsf.web.unc.edu](#)

[Dashboard](#) [Posts](#) [Pages](#) [Change Theme](#) [Settings](#)

[Invisible Machines](#)

Pointed Questions about Technology
[grantglass.web.unc.edu](#)

[Dashboard](#) [Posts](#) [Pages](#) [Change Theme](#) [Settings](#)

[English105 Fall 2016](#)

Writing in the Disciplines
[english105fall2016.web.unc.edu](#)

[Dashboard](#) [Posts](#) [Pages](#) [Change Theme](#) [Settings](#)

[English 105 Spring 2017](#)

Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric
[english105spring2017.web.unc.edu](#)

[Dashboard](#) [Posts](#) [Pages](#) [Change Theme](#) [Settings](#)

[CFE Course Design Institutes](#)

[coursedesign.web.unc.edu](#)

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4. Find our Class Website

[Healing in Ethnography and Literature](#)

[anth272engl264.web.unc.edu](#)

[Dashboard](#) [Posts](#) [Pages](#) [Change Theme](#) [Settings](#)

If you do not see our class, please email Grant Glass: grantg@live.unc.edu

5. Click on our class website. It will take you to [anth272engl264.web.unc.edu](#) You should see a little black bar across the top with your name on it.

WFR UNC My Sites Healing in Ethnography and Literature Customize 0 + New Edit Page Clear URL Cache Need Help? Grant Glass

Healing in Ethnography and Literature


[Home](#) [Schedule](#) [Course Policies](#) [Course Requirements](#) [Assignments](#) [Lecture Slides](#)

Home

Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In his book *The Wounded Storyteller: Body, Illness, and Ethics*, sociologist Arthur Frank asserts that “whether ill people want to tell stories or not, illness calls for stories.” Judging by the popularity of hospital-based television dramas, medically themed novels, outbreak narratives, patient blogs, and clinician memoirs, the connection between illness and storytelling is tighter than ever. At the same time, stories are shaped by cultural and historical context and by specific genres of representation. Stories about illness and healing draw on and trace the challenges brought on by suffering, loss, notions of well-being, and the dilemmas of providing care.

This new course, team-taught by professors of English and Anthropology, brings together literary and ethnographic texts to explore narratives of suffering, healing, and medicine’s roles in these processes. By examining compelling works from a range of genres—memoir, the short story, the ethnographic case study, graphic medicine, and the novel—students will learn analytical techniques from both fields and hone their interpretive and writing skills.



ANTH 272/ENGL 264 | Healing in Literature and Ethnography | Spring 2020

MWF 1:25 - 2:15, Gardner Hall, Room 008

Monday Recitations, Hanes 018
 Sections 9:05-9:55 (Grant), 10:10-11:00 (Grant), 11:15-12:05 (Julio), 12:20-1:10 (Julio)

Professor M. Rivkin-Fish: mrfish@unc.edu
 Department of Anthropology
 Office: Alumni Building, Room 305-A
 Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11-1 & by appt

Professor J. Thrallkill: thkill@unc.edu
 Department of English and Comparative Literature
 Office: Greenlaw Hall, Room 523 (or HHIVE Lab)
 Office Hours: W 2:30-3:30, F 12-1:00 & by appt

Julio Villa-Palomino: juliovp@live.unc.edu
 Office Hrs: Wed. 11-noon (410B Alumni Hall)

Grant Glass: grantg@live.unc.edu
 Office Hrs: Mon. 11-1 & by appt (505 Greenlaw Hall)

[Follow](#)

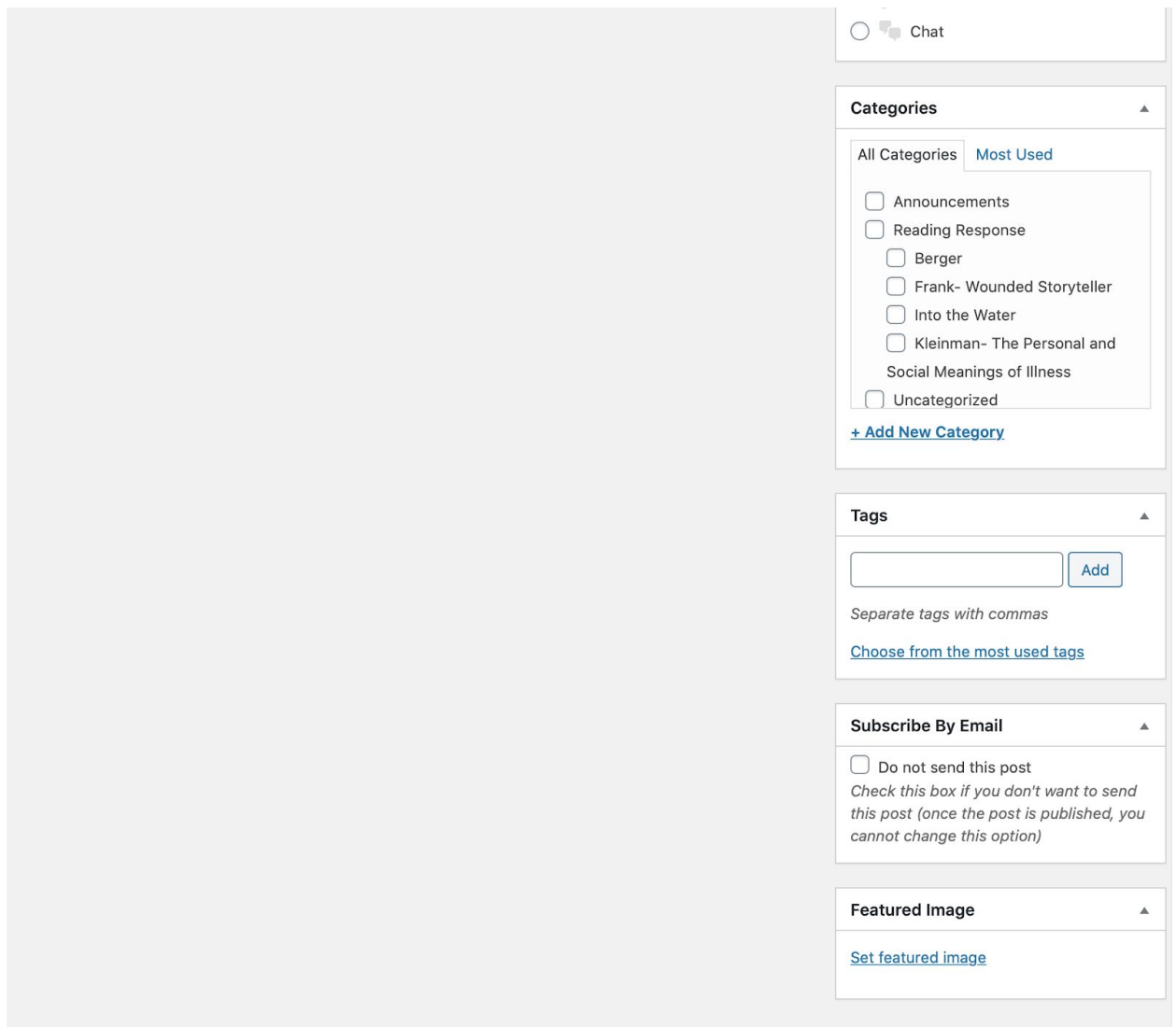
- At the top/middle of the website, you will see “+ New” Mouse over to this part and you will see a dropdown menu. Click on Post

The screenshot shows a WordPress website for the course "Healing in Ethnography and Literature". The top navigation bar includes "Home", "Schedule", "Course Policies", "Course Requirements", "Assignments", and "Lecture Slides". A "Post" dropdown menu is open, showing options for "Media", "Page", "UNC User", and "Form". The main content area features a "Home" section with a "Syllabus" link. Below this is a "COURSE DESCRIPTION" section with text about sociologist Arthur Frank's work. To the right, there is a sidebar with contact information for Professor M. Rivkin-Fish, Professor J. Thrailkill, and Julio Villa-Palomino, along with contact details for Grant Glass. A "Follow" button is visible at the bottom right of the sidebar.

- You will be brought to a page that looks like this “Add New Post” Create a Title for your Reading Response and copy/paste your response here. *I recommend writing it in word or google docs and pasting it in.

The screenshot shows the WordPress "Add New Post" editor interface. At the top, there is a "Screen Options" dropdown and a "Help" link. Below this is a "Akismet & Privacy" section with a notice about GDPR and a link to "More information". The main content area has a text input field for "Add title" and a rich text editor with a "Paragraph" dropdown and various formatting options (bold, italic, list, quote, link, image, video, audio, chat). To the right, there are three sidebars: "Onyen Restricted Content" with a "Require Onyen Authentication" checkbox, "Publish" with "Save Draft", "Preview", "Status: Draft Edit", "Visibility: Public Edit", and "Publish immediately Edit" buttons, and "Format" with a list of content types (Standard, Aside, Image, Video, Quote, Link, Gallery, Status, Audio, Chat).

8. Scroll down a little and make sure you select the corresponding Category for your Reading, “Berger” or “Frank- Wounded Storyteller” Tags are optional as well as an image.



The image shows a sidebar for editing a post. At the top right, there is a 'Chat' button with a speech bubble icon. Below it is the 'Categories' section, which has a dropdown arrow and two tabs: 'All Categories' and 'Most Used'. Under 'Most Used', there is a list of categories with checkboxes: 'Announcements', 'Reading Response', 'Berger', 'Frank- Wounded Storyteller', 'Into the Water', 'Kleinman- The Personal and Social Meanings of Illness', and 'Uncategorized'. A '+ Add New Category' link is at the bottom of this list. Below the categories is the 'Tags' section, which has a text input field, an 'Add' button, and the instruction 'Separate tags with commas'. A link 'Choose from the most used tags' is also present. The 'Subscribe By Email' section has a checkbox for 'Do not send this post' and a note: 'Check this box if you don't want to send this post (once the post is published, you cannot change this option)'. At the bottom is the 'Featured Image' section with a 'Set featured image' link.

9. When you are satisfied with your post, click on “Publish”

Add New Post

Akismet & Privacy

To help your site with transparency under privacy laws like the GDPR, Akismet can display a notice to your users under your comment forms. This feature is disabled by default, however, you can turn it on below. Please [enable](#) or [disable](#) this feature. [More information](#).

Add title

Add Media Add Form

Paragraph B I [List Icons] [Quote Icon] [Link Icon] [Image Icon] [Video Icon] [Text Icon]

Main content area for the post.

Word count: 0

Onyen Restricted Content

Require Onyen Authentication
 Apply to all children

Publish

Save Draft Preview

Status: Draft Edit

Visibility: Public Edit

Publish immediately Edit

Publish

Format

- Standard
- Aside
- Image
- Video
- Quote
- Link
- Gallery
- Status
- Audio
- Chat