

Kate Schnur
Pedagogy and Place — Teaching Resource Draft

English 130

Essay 1 — Close Reading

(4-5 pages)

In this first unit of the semester, we have focused on how our relationship to the places we inhabit is forged through the networks that we compose (between the people we meet and know, the objects we use and discard, and the parts of the environment we find, inhabit, or ignore). In your first essay assignment, you will analyze three passages from one of the texts we have read in unit 1 in order to support a thesis in which you **name the argument your author makes about Queens or a neighborhood in Queens**.

As a reminder, below is a list of the texts we have covered in unit 1 and the neighborhoods they represent:

Buzz Poole, “To Bridge: The Spaces Between, Behind, and Around Us” (Hell Gate Bridge)

Margarita Shalina, “The Maspeth Holders” (Maspeth)

Jill Esenstadt, “Rockaway Sonnets” (the Rockaways)

Chang-rae Lee, selection from *Native Speaker*

Bushra Rehman, selection from *Roses in the Mouth of a Lion* (Corona)

Your essay organization should be formatted in the following way:

Introduction — Your introduction should summarize the argument your author makes about Queens or a neighborhood in Queens and how you will go about proving this argument.

Paragraph 1 — Paragraph 1 should close read one scene (or a passage of up to 3 poetry lines). Through your close reading you should demonstrate how your argument takes shape through the relationship the author or character(s) forges with other people in their community.

Paragraph 2 — Paragraph 2 should close read one scene (or a passage of up to 3 poetry lines). Through your close reading you should demonstrate how your argument takes shape through how the author or character(s) interact with objects in their community.

Paragraph 3 — Paragraph 3 should close read one scene (or a passage of up to 3 poetry lines). Through your close reading you should demonstrate how your argument takes shape through how the author or character(s) interact with their natural and/or built environment.

Paragraph 4 — This a freeform paragraph. You can either analyze another scene (or a passage of up to 3 poetry lines) that adds to your argument in any way you choose. Or, you can write an **optional personal paragraph** in which you share how the network that you have built through

your analysis mirrors or differs from the kinds of networks that you have built in your community (however you choose to define community).

Conclusion — In your conclusion you should describe how your three paragraphs connect to each other and create the larger argument about Queens or a neighborhood in Queens that you have been building throughout this essay.

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