

**Short Position Papers**  
*Two Due by October 9<sup>th</sup>*  
*Two Due by December 4<sup>th</sup>*

In-depth reading is best accompanied by writing about your reading. Throughout the semester, you will write **four (4) Short Position Papers (500-750 words)** 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 500-750 words. 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 four. The position paper you submit when you lead class discussion will not count toward your required four.**

**Two** of these short position papers should be submitted prior to the midterm and **two** 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. Benjamin Franklin, "Way to Wealth"
2. Red Jacket, "Reply to the Missionary Jacob Cram"
3. Thomas Jefferson, "Declaration of Independence"
4. Thomas Jefferson, "Notes on Virginia"
5. David Walker, "Appeal"
6. Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Self-Reliance"
7. Black Hawk, From *Life of Ma-ka-tai-me-she-kia-kiak, or Black Hawk*
8. Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Wakefield"
9. Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Ethan Brand"
10. Edgar Allen Poe, "William Wilson"
11. Edgar Allen Poe, "Man of the Crowd"
12. Henry David Thoreau, "Where I Lived and What I Lived For,"
13. Henry David Thoreau, "Civil Disobedience"
14. Harriet Jacobs, excerpts from *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*
15. Abraham Lincoln, "Lyceum Address"
16. Frederick Douglass, "What to the Slave?" (p. 1002-1005)
17. Herman Melville, "Benito Cereno"
18. Walt Whitman, "Song of Myself"
19. Walt Whitman "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"
20. Walt Whitman, "The Wound Dresser"
21. Emily Dickinson, 260 [288], 320 [258], 340 [280], 372 [341], 373 [501], 409 [303], 479 [712], 598 [632], 620 [435], 764 [754], 1263 [1129]

22. Mark Twain, "A True Story,  
Repeated Word for Word as I  
Heard It"
23. Mark Twain, "The Celebrated  
Jumping Frog"
24. Charles Chesnutt, "Dave's  
Neckliss"
25. Kate Chopin, "Desiree's  
Baby"
26. Kate Chopin, "The Story of an  
Hour"
27. Sui Sin Far, "Mrs. Spring  
Fragrance"
28. Paul Laurence Dunbar, "We  
Wear the Mask"
29. Susan Glaspell, "Trifles"
30. Stephen Crane, "The Blue  
Hotel"
31. Robert Frost, "Mending  
Wall,"
32. Robert Frost, "Fire and Ice"
33. Claude McKay, "If We Must  
Die"
34. Claude McKay "America"
35. Nella Larsen, "Sanctuary"
36. Langston Hughes, "Let  
America Be America Again"
37. Langston Hughes, "I, Too"
38. T.S. Eliot, "Love Song of J.  
Alfred Prufrock"
39. Marianne Moore, "Poetry"
40. John Cheever, "The  
Swimmer"
41. Ralph Ellison, "Battle Royal"
42. James Baldwin, "Going to  
Meet the Man"
43. Flannery O'Connor, "A Good  
Man is Hard to Find"
44. Eudora Welty, "Where is the  
Voice Coming From?"
45. Allen Ginsberg, "Howl"
46. Allen Ginsberg, "A  
Supermarket in California,"
47. Allen Ginsberg, "America"
48. John Updike, "A & P"  
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49. Gwendolyn Brooks "We Real  
Cool"
50. Gwendolyn Brooks, "The Last  
Quatrain of the Ballad of  
Emmett Till"
51. Toni Morrison, "Recitatif"
52. Audra Lorde, "The  
Transformation of Silence into  
Language and Action"
53. Audra Lorde, "Poetry is Not a  
Luxury"
54. Alice Walker, "Everyday Use"
55. Jhumpa Lahiri "Sexy"
56. Junot Diaz, "Drown"
57. Sherman Alexei, "At Navajo  
Monument Tribal School,"
58. Sherman Alexei, "Crow  
Testament"
59. Colson Whitehead,  
*Underground Railroad*