

# Course Reflection:

As the semester comes to a close and by reflecting on the ways my reading, writing and interpretation skills, I have realized how far I've come. I take pride in where I was and where I stand now. I was an ineffective reader coming into this course; even prior to this course, I'd hardly connected to much text. The majority of assigned reading in my previous schooling was, in my opinion, excruciatingly boring. Yet, through the structure and assignments of this course, I would have to actually read to get through, and with the multiple movies, it required effective reading and writing to survive. Additionally, I had to try to get out of my comfort zone and participate in class discussions. If I had to choose one of the biggest lessons of learning this semester, it would be the idea of critical analysis. For example, in MWA1, I had to do a close reading of Eula Biss' "Is This Kansas?" which required me to do a lot of critical analysis. An analysis not only of her written words but also of the greater variables of privilege, power, and societal norms. I've come to understand that literature is a reflection on some of the greatest social inequalities, and by assessing these texts, I can come to conclusions that extend far beyond the page. Furthermore, Biss's arguments forced me to think critically about the ways privilege operated in my own university and society.

Additionally, through the Critical Personal Analysis, I learned a lot about myself relative to a greater world and literature and how it applies to contemporary social issues and society. For example, when analyzing Margot and Robert's relationship in Kristen Roupenian's "Cat Person," I was forced to reflect on the dangers of modern dating,

acknowledging how digital interactions can create false perceptions of people and can put people in a situation where people tend to fail to respond in the moment to how they feel. Additionally, social pressures have people (mostly women) in situations reserved for vulnerability collectively calmer than speaking their truths. Thus, it was challenging to write my emotional response for this analysis, but ultimately liberating to express thoughts and feelings that are usually left unspoken..

This class also made me realize how much a story and perspective can do. People can read the same text and have completely different interpretations of what they just read. This is something I previously did not fully comprehend and now I am more understanding. Every assignment provided a chance to give my opinion to topics, making the process of writing so much more fun.

Ultimately, it's been a life-changing semester. I'm a better reader, better writer, and better critical thinker. The skills and knowledge I've gained in this course will translate nearly everywhere else in my academic and personal life. But I've also walked away from this course with a renewed sense of reading for enjoyment.