In 750-1,000 words, write about your response to the poetry we have read. You may write about whatever strikes you personally, or you may select one of the following prompts as the basis of your response.

Discuss Howl as a statement defining a community. What gestures in the poem invite strong identification? What would a contemporary Howl defining your generation look like? How would it differ from Ginsberg’s?

Stylistically, Howl is a distinctive piece of work. What aspects of his poetic style here (long lines, longer sentences, aggressive obscenity, inside jokes or allusions) do you find compelling or alienating?

One of the characteristics of confessional poetry that we have identified is its reaction against the impersonal tendencies of high modernism. Indeed, the term “confessional poetry” was originally a pejorative term. Do you find the raw personal revelations of the confessional poets to be uncomfortably intimate or are they liberating expressions of personal suffering?