

Modeled Writing Umbrella Project-Reading Like a Writer 2019-20

There are two principle ways to get better as a writer: to practice writing yourself, and to read good writing. The intersection of these two skills is the ability to analyze and understand why good writing *is* good. When a reader can appreciate the components that go into good writing, they then gain perhaps the most important tool they have as a writer: the ability to edit and revise their own work- word by word, sentence by sentence. The goal of this project is to improve your abilities as a close reader and writer. The title is inspired in part by Francine Prose's book, *Reading Like a Writer*.

There will be two sections to your portfolio: Close Reading and Modeled Writing Assignments

Please note that the due dates I have assigned below are subject to change depending on scheduling! I will let you know if I need to change a deadline. I will assign the second semester dates as we get closer to winter break.

Close Reading:

Due Date: October 10th

- Copy five sentences you admire from published work. They should be from different authors and vary in length and style. Provide analysis (a few sentences to a paragraph) of each sentence and why you admire it. The goal is to be incredibly specific in your analysis-word choice, punctuation, rhythm, ideas, structure, story.
- Copy two paragraphs you admire from published work. They should be from different authors. Provide analysis of each paragraph and why you admire it. Again, the goal is to be incredibly specific.

Modeled Writing:

Length will depend on the selection we choose to model. In general, I would say from 1-3 pages would be sufficient, although if the exercise inspires a longer piece, that's good too. We will meet once to read/analyze an example of published work. You will then write your own version or "model" inspired by the example. We will meet again as a group two weeks later to read and critique your drafts before handing in a final revised version. Dates of first two workshop sequences are below:

Workshop One: Sept. 12th
Revision Workshop: Sept. 26th
Revised piece due: Oct 3rd

Workshop Two: Nov. 7th
Revision Workshop: Nov 20th

Revised piece due: Dec 12th

Workshop Three: TBD

Workshop Four: TBD