Task: Critical Reading

Situation: Probably best for a client who comes in for help with a reading assignment for FYS, CRWT 101/102, or RIH, although it can be adapted for other uses. It will work best for clients who don’t have much of an idea as to what they are supposed to do with an assigned reading, or how to analyze, if that’s what they’ve been asked to do, with no further instruction.

Instructions: A lot will depend on how long the reading is, and whether/how well the client has been able to read it. This is designed to start a discussion, so it would be best to assign this task earlier in the session.

Outcome: The goal here is simply to get the client thinking about the text from some standard critical perspectives, so that you can then have a discussion that probes for deeper understanding, and it may enable you to send the client home with a clearer idea of what can be done with the reading.

NB: all of my students in CRWT 102 should have completed this form before coming to see you for a reading session -- TWK
Title of the Text (assigned reading): ________________________________

Does the text state a problem (a locus of complexity) for investigation?

a) no, because ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

b) I’m not sure, because ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

c) yes, and it is ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

How would you characterize the reading? Explain your answer. (more than 1 category may apply)

a) personal narrative, because _______________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

b) text-based argument, because _____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

c) philosophical treatise, because ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

d) oration, because _________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

e) short fiction, because ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

f) other, because _________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
What, in your opinion, is the most memorable text of evidence used in the reading? Explain.
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Do you think the writer is trying to persuade you to do something?

a) no, because ____________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

b) I’m not sure, because ____________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

c) yes, and it is ____________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

What did you find to be the greatest obstacle to a critical reading of this text?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Write out three (3) questions to discuss with your consultant:

1. ______________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. ______________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

3. ______________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________