

Pre-Draft 1.3: Close Reading

Read your assigned short section of "Encounters With Class," in *Class Matters*. Then, *reread that section*, while producing a page or two of notes about the text. You should produce at least a page of single-spaced notes (or two pages, if you prefer to double-space).

While reading the text, be sure to note anything you find ambiguous, puzzling, or contradictory. Note also the tone of the piece, any use of language that you find significant, and your opinions on the material. Especially note anything which drives you to outside research (and keep notes on where you did your research and what results it provided). Note also any patterns, tensions, or questions that emerge from the text.

For example, here is one sample sentence from "The Means of Correct Training," by Foucault (a text we will be reading later this semester) and the notes I would make about it (please note that your own notes do not need to transcribe the text as whole, although if you find it helpful to transcribe quotes by all means do so).

"3. The examination, surrounded by all its documentary techniques, makes each individual a 'case': a case which at one and the same time constitutes an object for a branch of knowledge and a hold for a branch of power" (Foucault 1995: 191)

--Foucault seems to be talking here about the transformation of a person from an individual into what he calls a 'case': a piece of documentation, an item, an object, a set of numbers

--this transformation then makes "an object for a branch of knowledge:" an item to be studied rather than a person

--it also provides "a hold for a branch of power:" once stamped, numbered, pigeonholed, and categorized, a person is then subject to the force of the institution or the State.

--therefore the dehumanizing process of turning people into cases both gathers data and makes those people subject to being classified/put into categories.

This is a lot of notes for one sentence, but Foucault is dense (your own texts will, hopefully, not be this dense). You need not make this many notes per sentence as long as you feel you have thoroughly documented your short piece and the questions, patterns, and themes it raises.

Please type your notes. It is not necessary to have complete sentences.

Due 9/14