

REVISION PLAN: PLACE

Reading & Composition R1b: Visions of the World
GSI: Shokoofeh Rajabzadeh

REQUIRED LABOR: 10.25 hours or 615 minutes

You are only required to spend the amount of time I've documented on each section. Work on each section in the order that I've listed. If you find that you've worked the required time for that section, and have only made it through questions 1 and 2, then write a few sentences explaining how you spent your time, letting me know that you were unable to make it through the rest of the questions in that section and move on. If you finish the assignment with time left in the 10.25 hours, go back and finish those sections you've left incomplete.

This is a finalized document. It should be clear, concise, written in simple and elegant style (to the best of your ability). In other words, it is NOT a reflection or a free write. There should be *very* minimal spelling errors, grammatical errors, or other copy editing errors. This means you will need to print it, edit it, and revise it before handing it in. It also means that you'll need to rewrite certain paragraphs. If I get the sense that you have not followed the labor instructions, I will return it to you, ask you to edit it, and hand it back in.

OVERVIEW (90 MINUTES)

1. (15 minutes) Read your paper again *out loud*. This should take you at least 15 minutes. If it's taking you less time, you're reading too fast. It takes me even longer to read each of your papers just once, and I read them multiple times before I even begin commenting.
2. (40 minutes) Reread your paper, this time writing notes in the margins, circling words that are unclear, noticing grammatical or spelling errors, etc. Then, write two to three paragraphs carefully critiquing your work. What are its strengths? What are its weaknesses?
3. (15 minutes) Write a three-paragraph reflection on your paper. In the first paragraph, discuss what you notice now that you've taken some time away from your work. In the second paragraph, write about what your goals were (if you had any) when you started writing this piece. What was/were the main points you had aimed to convey to your reader? Have you done that effectively? In the final paragraph, write about what you think this paper's overall strengths and weaknesses are.
4. (20 minutes) Carefully read over the letter I've written you. In your own words, what suggestions have I given you to improve your work?

RESEARCH AND ANECDOTAL (45 minutes)

You did not have to think about an argument in the same way those who wrote an analytical, academic paper did. The most difficult part of writing the place paper is attaining the perfect balance between the research and the anecdotal in the piece. Too much research and your piece moves into a different genre (travel literature, news piece, think piece, etc.). Too much of the anecdotal, and your piece moves into a different genre (non-fiction personal essay, reflection, travel account, blog post).

1. Go back and read the Teju Cole essay, “Far Away From Here.” Find a section of the essay (a paragraph or two) that strikes a strong balance between research, close reading, and the personal narrative. Write a paragraph analyzing this part of Cole’s essay. Why is it effective? How does he transition from research to the anecdote? What else do you notice that you’d like to model?
2. Thinking about “balance” and the portion of Teju Cole’s essay that you found effective, look back at your work. Write three paragraphs about the balance of anecdotal and research in your paper.
 - a. In the first paragraph, reflect on the ratio of research to anecdote in your paper. Do you think you’ve struck the appropriate balance? Pick a part of the paper where you think you’ve struck the right balance. What do you notice is effective? Why does it work?
 - b. In the second paragraph, write about part(s) of your paper that you think are **too** anecdotal. You don’t need to write about any part of the paper that’s anecdotal. You may find that a few paragraphs of anecdotes are necessary to convey your point. Write about a portion you find **too anecdotal**, a part of the paper that is weak because of its emphasis on the anecdotal.
 - c. In the third paragraph, write about part(s) of your paper that you think are **too research** oriented. Maybe the tone is just too academic. Maybe you got lost in how fascinating your sources were and just went on and on about them. Again, if you think the research works in some paragraphs, don’t write about that. Write about a part of the paper that you think is weakened because it is too research-oriented. Look back at the Teju Cole piece as a model.
 - d. NOTE: If you have no anecdotal sections or no research sections in your paper (which is the case for a few of you), then spend that paragraph above thinking instead about how you lost the anecdotal or research thread. What obstacle did you face while writing that made you undervalue the anecdote? Or the research? How can you shift your orientation to the paper to prevent that from happening in the next draft?

CLOSE READING & ANALYSIS (130 minutes)

1. (110 minutes) Find an image, a photo, a moment, a poem that you have not analyzed for your paper. Print it out. Complete the close reading assignment on this passage. REMEMBER, BE IN UNCERTAINTY. Try to understand the passage for what it’s doing.
 - a. (40 minutes) Find, print, read and annotate
 - b. (15 minutes) Make category lists (at least three): verbs, adjectives, nouns
 - c. (15 minutes) Free Association Exercise (on three words)
 - d. (40 minutes) Write a three paragraph close reading analysis on this passage. This is not a reflection. This is carefully constructed paragraph. This will take time. Pay attention to everything we discussed in class. Make sure your quotes are embedded elegantly.
2. (40 minutes) Write three paragraphs critiquing the close reading analysis in your paper at large. In the first paragraph, write about one or two moments where your close reading analyses were strong. What makes these analyses strong? In the second paragraph, write on one or two moments where your close readings and analyses are weak. What makes these analyses weak? In the third paragraph, consider why there is a discrepancy between your analyses. Why are some analyses weak and some strong? Have you spent more time close reading the strong passages before writing on them? Did you remain in uncertainty for one and try to prove something in the other?

SOURCES (180 minutes)

1. Find a new outside source.
 - a. Spend 45 minutes reading the source.
 - b. Write a summary of the source.
 - c. Write a paragraph that engages your close reading with the source. What has this source inspired you to think about? Do you agree with all of the author's claims and interpretations? How do you see yourself integrating this source into your revised paper?
2. Look at your quote integrations. Find two instances where you've embedded your quotes elegantly. Copy them into your revision document. Write a brief paragraph on 1) why these quotes are embedded correctly, and 2) what do strong quote integrations do for your argument and for the reading experience? Now find two moments where you could improve your quote integration. Copy those here. What revisions do you need to make? Perhaps you only need a word or two from this quote. Perhaps you need to find a way to say this yourself and you shouldn't even use a quote. Maybe you don't even need the quote. Revise your two weak quote integrations.
3. Look at your footnotes and bibliography. Have you cited everything correctly? Most of you have not!!! Edit two footnote and bibliographic entries here. If you are 100% sure you have, then just copy and paste two of your citations here, and think instead about whether you can move something that is extraneous from your paper into a footnote instead. Make better use of the footnote space in your paper.

INTRODUCTION (30 minutes)

1. Reread your introduction. Describe what it is doing? Is it effective? Why? Do you repeat points from your introduction in the two or three paragraphs following it? In place papers, introductions do not need to set up a problem in the same way, but the introduction should still be doing something poignant and powerful for you. It should not sound superfluous or sound cliché. Is there a moment from your experience traveling (for many of you) that would make a stronger introduction?
2. Write a paragraph on your introduction, considering the following: How can you make your introduction stronger? Does your introduction set you up for a *personal narrative* or is setting you up for a news piece, think piece, or op-ed?

CONCLUSION (30 minutes)

1. Write two paragraphs, critiquing your conclusion by considering the following: What does your conclusion do well? What does it do poorly. There should really be NO summary in the conclusions of place papers. Go back to Teju Cole's conclusion. What does he do in his conclusion that you could learn from for yours?

FORMATTING (40 minutes)

1. Do each of your topic sentences set you up for the content you will be discussing in the paragraph or transition elegantly? You can have abrupt transitions as long as they are deliberate.
2. Transcribe your introduction, then transcribe every topic sentence in your paper in one single paragraph. How does this paragraph read? Briefly reflect on what you notice.

FINAL STEPS: (70 minutes)

1. (20 minutes) Write a paragraph or two that briefly lays out your revision plan. How are you going to revise your paper? What steps will you be taking? Will you close read a few more passages before revising? Will you begin by making your question clearer? Lay out your revision plan. Remember, your final paper should have parts that will be substantially different from your current draft. This final revision is not a tweak of a sentence here and there, so think methodically about how you want to tackle that revision.
2. (50) Print this out, and spend 30 minutes carefully rereading and editing this document. Put your revisions into the document. Email it to me!
3. Attach your labor log for this assignment to the email.