

Finished Writing

If the Reading Notebooks are a chance to practice making meaning in a text, then the Finished Writing should show you at your best. We will do these twice throughout the course – once about halfway, and once more at the conclusion. You will choose one of your notebook entries from the preceding half of the course (that is, the first piece of Finished Writing should cover the first four books we have read, and then second only the rest of the books, excluding the choice novel). You should take this entry and deepen and expand upon your arguments, polish your prose, and check carefully all the mechanics and citations. You might expand your entry by bringing in a lens, applying the argument you are making to another text in the class, or simply extend your original argument. The final product should be 1000-1500 words. An “A” paper will:

- demonstrate a depth of insight into the text
- Fully support each assertion with specific textual evidence, including quotes and paraphrases where appropriate
- Make use of a critical lens
- Build upon successive assertions so that the entry culminates in a strong argument
- Avoid unnecessary summary of the text
- be clear and concise in its writing
- Correctly cite its textual evidence using MLA format (and also cite outside sources, if applicable)
- Be free of mechanical errors
- Describe the actions of the text in the present tense