

21L.021 Comedy
Close Reading 3 (250 wds)

Revise First Paragraph from Draft Essay 1 Due Session 8

A few words to get the wheels turning ...

For this close reading assignment, your task is to revise the **first paragraph** (the introduction) of your recent draft of Essay 1. To prepare for this task, please have already read the “Introduction” and “Chapter 1: Coming to Terms” from Joseph Harris’ *Rewriting: How to do things with texts* (2006), as well as completed the handout that was provided during class. Harris and the handout will help you organize how you write and also consider what it is that your *project* is most interested in. *Most importantly, this revision asks that you understand your thesis, yet in order to do so you’ll have to understand what it is that other paragraphs in your essay are articulating and contributing to the essay as a whole.*

Some advice for the revision of the first paragraph: pay careful attention to the areas I have highlighted and commented upon throughout your essay. My efforts are to draw your attention to word choice, grammar, structure, yet I refrain from providing elaborate comments because I want to see how *you* revise/rewrite/rework your writing. My role is to push you towards thinking more critically about the rewriting process, not rewrite your essay. Essentially, I am eager to see *how do you think as a writer in the mode of revising* AND *how do you enact the revision process*. My highlighting of generalizations, my underlining of certain *texts* v. characters, and my posing a few questions, for instance, is about my taking notice of certain areas of your writing but asking you to revise it.

The below are useful reviews on *Chi-Raq* to help provide a language that complements your literary analysis. Do not treat these as secondary resources, however. My hope, at this point, is not for you to include these sources into your essay (such as quoting from them); instead, pay attention to how these writers discuss the film. Take note of how actors are introduced as certain characters (do this in your essays), also look at analyses of particular scenes in *Chi-Raq*, or even contemplate the comparative analysis between the film and Aristophanes’ *Lysistrata*. (NOTE: do not learn the bad habit of using contractions in your essays, which the first article below does throughout—it’s, that’s, doesn’t, wouldn’t, hadn’t. In your essay spell these out as, it is, that is, does not, would not, and had not).

Spike Lee’s ‘Chi-Raq,’ a Barbed Takedown of Gang Wars, With Sex as the Weapon

<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/04/movies/review-spike-lees-chi-raq-a-barbed-takedown-of-gang-wars-with-sex-as-the-weapon.html>

“Chi-Raq” and Spike Lee’s Bad Feminism (2016) by Jennifer Williams

<http://msmagazine.com/blog/2016/01/13/chi-raq-and-spike-lees-bad-feminism/>

Your writing is improving! Trust me. It’s also exciting to read your revisions.

Happy writing,

Professor Martinez

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