

1. Find an example of criticism (be it literary, musical, or film) and post the link to the article here. Write a short paragraph on what makes the piece "critical", specifically in terms of its language and the way it treats the text. Does the critic present their ideas as subjective or objective?

2. Find a text (a piece of literature, film, or music) and write a paragraph on how it uses irony to create a certain set of expectations of how things will play out. Does the text uphold these expectations or do events take a different turn? How does that affect the audience's response to the text?

3. In Hamlet these were performance (theatricality), injustice, the bodily, revenge, and inaction. Choose one of these themes and find another text which embodies or explores it. Write a short paragraph using a quote to demonstrate how the text presents the theme. Pay attention to the language of the quote.

4. Find an example of what you think is a *correct* or effective use of the "objective correlative" in literature, film, or music: a *thing*, an *event*, or a *circumstance* that embodies an emotion or feeling in such a way that when it appears it creates that feeling in the audience.

5. Write a paragraph on what you think constitutes a "fictional" work. According to your understanding, does a piece of fiction have to obey the rules of reality? Or does the poet, as Sidney says, never lie because they "never affirmeth?" What are the limits of fiction's play with reality?

6. Look up the history of prison labor-camps in the post-civil-war South and write a paragraph on their place in history. Why would the state want to use prisoners to do work? Can you think of any contemporary examples of this practice?

7. Is the poem a good vehicle for achieving a political agenda or effect? What dangers might be associated with condensing political complexity into the terse and dense language of a poem?

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9. Find a news story that frames its story as a tragedy. How does it use this narrative frame to influence the audience's feelings about the event? Does it seek to assign blame? What does it suggest as the means of fixing the problem? Do you think it is an ideological framing?

10. "Armchair" here refers to the situation of reading a novel: no longer the collective experience of an audience for a play (or movie), but the experience of reading a book with nothing but one's imagination to guide you. Think about the difference in conventions, but also the difference in the situation (by analogy, consider how you might respond differently to watching a film at the cinema or on Netflix).

11. Find an example of another text that uses polyphonic narration and show how it either contributes to or detracts from, the clarity of meaning in the text.