

Lesson for Monday: 1/7/08

- Reading: In class. "Introduction to Poetry" by Billy Collins (<http://www.loc.gov/poetry/180/001.html>), "Ars Poetica" by Archibald MacLeish (<http://www.tnellen.com/cybereng/poetry/ars.html>), and "3 Secrets To Understanding What Makes Music Tick" by Duane Shinn (<http://www.buymusic.write101.com/>).
- Assignments: **In class**, brainstorm for your essay.
- Class Activities: Getting to know you exercise, in-class reading, and writing exercises. Brainstorm favorite pieces of music.

I Roll (15 min)

II Syllabus Walk-through (15 min)

III Getting to Know You: New Scavenger Hunt (15 min)

IV Tell us something about Yourself (15 min)

V What is Poetry? What is Music? (10 min)

- A. Put phrases up, have folks web for five minutes.
- B. Go over results.
- C. Make connection to "Ars Poetica"

VI "Ars Poetica" Reading (5 min)

- A. Read 2xs.

VII Poetry Work (10 min)

- A. In group answer the following questions:
 - a. What, from your perspective, is the most interesting line in the poem, the one that speaks to you? Why is this so?
 - b. What line, word, or image seems to you to be key to your understanding of the poem?
 - c. What, from your perspective, does this poem have to say about what the role of poems, or lyrics, might be in our lives?

VIII Writing Exercise (15 min)

- A. Choose a favorite song, poem, set of lyrics, recently released CD, or music performance you have seen.
- B. Describe, for someone unfamiliar with the thing you just chose, why the song, poem, set of lyrics, recently released CD, or music performance is compelling and interesting. Do this by describing the object/performance as vividly and descriptive as possible.
- C. Finally, why is the thing you just described important to you? Why might it be important to others?

- **TELL THEM TO BRING A FAVORITE POEM OR SET OF LYRICS.**
- **TELL THEM TO DO THE READING GIVEN TO THEM.**

Wednesday: 1/9/08

- Reading: Music reviews handed out by Chris in Previous Class.
- Assignments: Bring in your favorite poem or set of song lyrics.
- Class activities: Discussion of "What is Music?" Literature circle work on your favorite poem or lyrics.

Lesson for Wednesday: 1/9/08

- Reading: Music reviews handed out by Chris in Previous Class.
- Assignments: Bring in your favorite poem or set of song lyrics.
- Class activities: Discussion of “What is Music?” Literature circle work on your favorite poem or lyrics.

I What is Music: Freewrite (20 min)

- A. Take ten minutes and, without focusing on grammar, syntax, or anything “picky”, freewrite about this very broad, but important question: what is music?
- B. Discuss the responses.

II Introduce First Assignment (10 min)

- A. Go over.
- B. Discuss Rubric.
- C. Take questions.

III Starting Your Paper (15 min)

- A. Have everyone write, and then talk what they plan to write about.
- B. Point out good ideas.
- C. Do a provisional thesis with one of them.

IV Discussion of music reviews, as a group (20 min)

- A. For the Dolly Parton piece, what was the most memorable idea?
- B. How did the author describe the music he heard? What language was used? What was its effect?
- C. For the Huey Lewis piece, what was the most memorable idea or image?
- D. What was, in this piece, at the heart of the piece?
- E. What are things that these reviews do?
- F. What are things that they don't do?

V Work on Lit Circles (30 min)

VI Go over work for Monday

THIS IS THE LAST DAY TO DROP THIS CLASS.

Week Two

*Unit One: **Poetry and Lyrics***

Monday: 1/14/08 (Computer Lab)

- Reading: Sample essay for our collection by Chris—**on our webpage**. Two pieces by Jim Burke on poetry. **(These pieces are in our course reader).**
- Assignments: **Blog creation—in class. Start first draft of your piece—Monday: 1/21/08. (Bring paper and electronic copy).**
- Class activities: Creating Your Blog. Deconstructing Chris' essay. Start on first essay.

Wednesday: 1/16/08

- Reading: None.
- Assignments: Bring in 3 lyrics or poems into class to discuss.
- Class Activities: Discussion of your lyrics or poems in literature circles. In-class lyric or poetry creation: as group and singly.