ENGL:1200:082

Spring 2015

Instructor: Andrew Williams

Literary Reading Review

After attending a reading, I want you to write a brief (2-3 page) review of the event. This should include both any interesting or relevant information about the event and your response to it. I include a list of questions to consider below—feel free to address any of them that are relevant, although there will probably not be space enough to address them all. It might be helpful to write your review as a narrative, briefly setting a scene before using your description of the event to address some of the following questions:

What information can you give about the author? Where are they from? What are they doing in Iowa City? Did they give any personal information about themselves that seemed relevant to the reading? Did they talk about how or why they write? Did they mention projects that they are working on or people that they are working with? (You do not need to do any outside research here, unless you want to—feel free just to include information that the author gives about her- or him-self or information given by an introducer).

What did the author read? What genre do they work in: poetry, fiction, non-fiction, drama, or something else? How many texts did the author read? How did the texts that they read relate to each other? What were the texts about?

How did they read? Did they just read the texts or did they also talk between texts? Did they introduce information about the texts? Did they tell stories or jokes? Did they seem comfortable or uncomfortable? Dry or animated?

How did the audience respond to the reading? Was there a rapport between the author and audience? Was there a question and answer period afterward? If so, what was it like?

What was your response? Was the reading enjoyable? Were the texts easy or difficult to understand? How was the experience of hearing the texts read different from reading printed texts? How did the reading shape—or attempt to shape—your experience of the world? Overall, what did you take away from the reading?