

## ENG 104, Climate Change Fiction: Close Reading Assignment Grading Rubric

### An “A” or “Superior” Close Reading Assignment:

- Presents a compelling, sophisticated, original, and well-supported argument about a short story that addresses not simply what the story is about (summary and content) but, more importantly, how the story works (how it creates its meanings).
- Skillfully integrates the most pertinent observations and textual details about the different elements (e.g. form, style, narration, character development, etc) of that short story as evidence for its argument.
- Astutely analyzes these textual details and observations about how the short story works, making intriguing connections between these different details and observations and pointing out patterns and relations.
- Displays clear and fluid argument-based organization on both the sentence and paragraph levels.
- Prose is clear and elegant, displaying the writer’s own developing voice.
- No errors in grammar, style, or mechanics.

### A “B” or “Proficient” Close Reading Assignment:

- Includes an original and well-supported argument about a short story.
- Selects pertinent evidence (textual details and observations) to support this argument.
- Examines the cited textual details but could include further analysis.
- Makes some connections between different elements of the short story and points out some important patterns.
- Displays a mostly clear and fluid organization on both the sentence and paragraph levels.
- Prose is clear and mostly fluid, with very few grammatical or mechanical problems

### A “C” or “Satisfactory” Close Reading Assignment:

- Has a defensible argument, though it would benefit from a more probing starting point.
- Goes beyond summary to cite relevant textual details that support its argument.
- Begins to analyze textual details but still needs to show *how* they work together in the short story.
- Displays some organization on both the paragraph and sentence levels.
- Grammatical/mechanical problems are present but do not obscure the essay’s ideas.

### A “D” or “Unsatisfactory” Close Reading Assignment:

- Asserts a statement of fact rather than a defensible argument.
- Never goes beyond summary of short story to consider *how* the story is working.
- Offers opinions about the text rather than using textual evidence to justify its claims or statements.
- Little or no organization.
- Grammatical/mechanical issues obscure meaning.

### An “F” or “Unacceptable” Close Reading Assignment:

- Does not in any way address the assignment
- Does not include any close reading
- Is in part or wholly plagiarized