

HEADNOTE 1 – ASSIGNMENT SHEET

Document Type: Introduction and Analysis

Assignment:

Over the course of the semester, you will be creating your own prison-text anthology that contains a variety of prison writings chosen by you from one of our databases or textbooks. For your first major writing assignment, you will choose your first prison text and write an introductory headnote for that text. The headnote should introduce the author of the text, give context to the original production and dissemination of the text, and highlight important themes and literary elements that can be found in the text. Most importantly, the headnote should help your reader understand the reading selection on a deeper level (culturally, intellectually, historically, psychologically, linguistically, etc.). Moreover, the headnote should be written in a way that anticipates the overall focus and theme of your anthology.

Here is a list of possible ways to thematically choose and organize the reading selections of your anthology. You could

- select readings that give representation to a certain group of voices (ethnicity, nationality, gender, sex, religion, political affiliation, etc.),
- select readings that share common generic attributes (letters, exposés, fiction, autobiography, poetry, sci-fi, fantasy, etc.),
- select readings that share common themes or motifs (love, resistance, dehumanization, guilt, growth, innocence, faith, etc.),
- select readings that represent a certain cultural or historical moment (civil rights movement, Jim Crow, Russian gulag, English Civil War, etc.), or
- select readings that center around a specific prison or jail (Folsom, San Quentin, River Bend (in Tennessee), Rykers Island, etc.).
- There are probably other ways to organize and focus your selections. Be creative and let me know if you have any good ideas.

Specific Requirements and Expectations:

- You should choose a text selected from one of our two prison-writing databases: [The American Prison Writing Archive](#) or [American Prison Newspapers, 1800-2020](#).
- You should write a 1-2 page headnote for the reading selection.
 - Include author's biographical information which should highlight their carceral context.
 - Include text's title and date of publication and any other publication information/context.
 - Include a brief summary of the text.
 - Include a discussion of the important themes, literary elements, cultural contexts, and/or historical features that you wish to highlight for the reader of your anthology.

- You should include the full text of the reading selection after the headnote (does not count towards page requirement).
- You should include a citation for the reading selection.
- You should use formal, academic English and employ accurate literary terminology.

Purpose:

- to explore how prison literature reflects, informs, and shapes both personal and collective experience;
- to articulate cogent responses to prison literature that demonstrate cultural awareness and understanding;
- to reflect on how reading, writing, and interpreting prison literature initiates and contributes to cultural and social contexts;
- to examine how the production and interpretation of prison literature is shaped by historical, social, or cultural contexts;
- to analyze how literature from different cultures, movements, and time periods employ narrative and stylistic strategies to convey complex ideas and meanings;
- to compose a project that utilizes critical thinking, analysis, and research to situate literature within diverse cultural and conceptual frameworks;

Audience:

- your instructor and students of prison literature

Turning in the Assignment:

- File should be saved as a MS Word file (.doc or .docx) file.
- File should be up-loaded to the [Anthology Selection Headnote #1 Dropbox](#)

Formatting:

- Document design should follow the conventions of an anthology or textbook.
- Headnotes and anthologized texts should be set apart with titles.
- Font choices should be made in order to guide the reader's experience with the text and to differentiate between sections of the anthology.
- An APA or MLA citation should follow the anthologized selection.

STUDENT-EDITED ANTHOLOGY – ASSIGNMENT SHEET

Document Type: Anthology

Assignment:

Over the course of the semester, you will be creating your own prison-text anthology that contains a variety of prison writings chosen by you from one of our databases or textbooks. Your goal will be to select FOUR prison writings and re-contextualize them for your reader by writing an **Introduction** for the anthology, by writing **Headnotes** for the literature selections, and by connecting the texts with each other in order to help your readers come to a deeper or new understanding of the reading selections. Here is a list of possible ways to thematically choose and organize the reading selections of your anthology. You could

- select readings that give representation to a certain group of voices (ethnicity, nationality, gender, sex, religion, political affiliation, etc.),
- select readings that share common generic attributes (letters, exposés, fiction, autobiography, poetry, sci-fi, fantasy, etc.),
- select readings that share common themes or motifs (love, resistance, dehumanization, guilt, growth, innocence, faith, etc.),
- select readings that represent a certain cultural or historical moment (civil rights movement, Jim Crow, Russian gulag, English Civil War, etc.), or
- select readings that center around a specific prison or jail (Folsom, San Quentin, etc.).
- There are probably other ways to organize and focus your selections. Be creative and let me know if you have any good ideas.

Specific Requirements and Expectations:

- Your anthology should contain three selections from our prison-writing databases or textbooks. For any selection taken from our textbooks, you must still write an original headnote for the text.
 - You must make your selections from either of our two prison-writing databases: [The American Prison Writing Archive](#) or [American Prison Newspapers, 1800-2020](#).
- You should write a 1-2 page Introduction for the anthology that discusses the particular themes or organizing principles that are present in your anthology. The introduction should focus on highlighting what you believe is most significant and beneficial about the reading selections that you've chosen for your anthology. Your introduction should also explain what a reader of the anthology can be expected to encounter in their reading experiences.
- You should write a 1-2 page headnote for each of the reading selection. You, of course, can revise and use the headnotes that you have previously written and submitted.
 - Include author's biographical information, including carceral context.
 - Include text's title and date of publication and any other publication information/context.
 - Include a brief summary of the text.

- Include a discussion of the important themes, literary elements, cultural contexts, and/or historical features that you wish to highlight for the reader of your anthology.
- You should include the full texts of the reading selections after the headnotes (does not count towards page requirement).
- You should include a bibliography for the reading selections.
- You should include at least TEN explanatory footnotes that explain the historical, cultural, or social significance of allusions found within the texts.
- You should use formal, academic English and employ accurate literary terminology.

Purpose:

- to explore how prison literature reflects, informs, and shapes both personal and collective experience
- to articulate cogent responses to prison literature that demonstrate cultural awareness and understanding
- to reflect on how reading, writing, and interpreting prison literature initiates and contributes to cultural and social contexts
- to examine how the production and interpretation of prison literature is shaped by historical, social, or cultural contexts
- to analyze how literature from different cultures, movements, and time periods employ narrative and stylistic strategies to convey complex ideas and meanings
- to compose a project that utilizes critical thinking, analysis, and research to situate literature within diverse cultural and conceptual frameworks
- to identify connections between prison literature and values, experiences, and practices of multiple cultures
- to develop an approach to reading, writing, and interpretation that demonstrates an understanding of human experiences from multiple cultural vantage points

Audience:

- your instructor and students of prison literature

Turning in the Assignment:

- File should be saved as a MS Word file (.doc or .docx) file or PDF.
- File should be up-loaded to the [Student Anthology Dropbox](#)

Formatting:

- You can be creative with your formatting, but it should be functional and appropriate for your academic audience.
- Your formatting and page layout should clearly demarcate your writing and editorial commentary from the that of literary selections in your anthology.
- You must have a list of bibliographic citations concluding your anthology.
- If you include any illustrations, they should be cited in your bibliography.