Literary analysis drafting workshop

READ CAREFULLY BEFORE BEGINNING!

Good literary analysis should have:

1. Introductions: your introduction should introduce! At the very least it should plainly state the author, text and date of publication something like this: In Jane Austen's *Emma* (1816)… But at the very most it should introduce your topic, express a reason to your inquiry, and introduce your argument. Your argument should in some way address how **form** (the structure of the text: metaphor, imagery, tone, basically any elements that reappear in action, gesture, dialogue, description or that reappear and shift in direction, focus, time, place, space, symbolic nature, etc.) and **content** (the theme, idea, subject, genre, historical context, ideologies, etc.) reveal or express something about that subject.
2. Body Paragraphs: should offer some form of context without relying on too much summary. They should offer evidence (quotations, correctly cited) and talk about the significance of this evidence. They should also follow some logic in arrangement. Start at the beginning, explain the basics of your argument first and then get into the nitty gritty details. The paragraphs should relate to each other and should have effective transitions.
3. Conclusions: should conclude! Relate your argument back to the purpose and function and purpose of fiction (think of Landy's formative fictions, exemplary fictions, cognitive fictions and affective fictions). Think about the broader implications of your argument. Conclude!

Trade papers with one classmate. Read through his or her draft with these three points in mind, making note of any awkward, confusing or "gritty" areas of the text (I find "high-light text" works well for this). Then write a 150-300 word paragraph assessing the strengths and weaknesses of his or her piece of literary analysis. Write all of this on one document! Email the entire document to your classmate and be sure to CC me so I can give you credit.