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# ABC of Reading Assignment

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## ABC of Reading

**ABC of Reading Assignment:** This assignment is designed to help you articulate your own poetic influences and interests. Because you've been taking notes toward this end since the beginning of the semester, it should not be too difficult to write a proposal, which we will discuss during your conference. Though I am open to seeing you discuss books and/or individual poems that have already influenced you, I will also expect to see new texts/poems discovered this semester. The *ABC of Reading* can take many forms; it need not be an essayistic text like Pound's. Rather, it could be visual or auditory. It could be hybrid in genre. It could be poetry. The form your *ABC of Reading* takes will largely depend on the content and your own notion of what poetry ought to do. Your 2 page proposal should include the following:

- A bibliography of the texts (at least 5 texts) you will examine
- A discussion of the primary characteristics that led you to your chosen texts
- A discussion of the form your *ABC of Reading* will take
- A discuss of how you plan to address the question of the relationship between your reading a writing practices

**To Begin:** Begin by considering which poets you enjoy reading and make a list of the attributes that you most admire. Do you see any of these attributes in your own work? Be as specific as possible when discussing the various ways your writing has been shaped by each of these works. As you are examining your reading and writing, begin to ask yourself what your writing and reading processes look like. In his book, Pound argues that poets can “charge words with meaning in mainly in three ways, called phanopoeia, melopoeia, and logopoeia. You can use a word to throw a visual image on to the reader's imagination, or you charge it by sound, or you use groups of words to do this.” For Pound, these are useful distinctions that resurface each time he reads a text. Do you have similar modes of reading? How do these modes operate during the writing process? Pound includes a number of “Exhibits,” “Exercises,” and a “Treatise on Meter,” making his text a handbook of sorts. Like Pound, you might consider writing a text that offers your reader ways of practicing your poetic. At the conclusion of this assignment, you should have a better understanding of the relationship between your reading and writing practices.

**Note:** There is no page limit on this assignment since some of you might choose to construct an *ABC of Reading* that is off the page. At the same time, if you do decide to create an alternative *ABC of Reading*, you will still need to submit a proposal, and you will need to include a short description of your project with the *ABC of Reading*. For those of you who are writing your *ABC of Readings*, I imagine that it would be difficult to fully consider all the elements of this assignment in less than 6-8 pages.