

Textual Analysis: *King Lear*

ASSIGNMENT: You have been asked to analyze a specific passage of *King Lear* in order to make an arguable claim based on your analysis. The language is your evidence; your essay is structured by your argument supporting the claim. (If you use evidence from other parts of the play, be sure to ground your argument in your claim about the passage.) **Method:** 1] Re-read the passage with a pencil in hand. Circle the “keywords” which catch your attention. 2] Paraphrase in your own words: what’s going on? 3] Why might this word be especially meaningful in terms of themes from lecture or class? 4] *So what?* How does this word help you make a hypothesis or claim about the passage or play? (Use a dictionary!) Then DRAW A LINE under this entry, and start again. 5] When you have finished the passage, make a note of any entries that relate to each other in your *So-What* hypotheses, or highlight them. If any entries seem to work *against* each other, or offer insight into a *different* theme, make note of them separately, or use a different color...). Then you can begin constructing an argument on the basis of the various kinds of evidence you have found. *Handbook:* "What is analysis?" (44) ; "Integrating Quotations Stylistically" (90-93).

KEY WORD and line#	PARAPHRASE	WHY IS THIS WORD INTERESTING?	SO WHAT?
Word/words <u>you</u> circled	Who is saying what, and to whom...? [Is anybody listening onstage?]	Allusion: economics, religion, history, family? Etymology? Connotation? Metaphor? Logic? Spoken or unspoken assumption? Emotions? Irony? Repetition? Appeal to authority? Social glue?	Hypothesis? How might this help us understand the passage or the play?