Throughout the semester Professor Salita Bryant posed the following journal questions to students in ENG 234: Women in Literature. The questions asked students to reflect on their learning throughout the semester through reference to specific activities. These responses, which were collected at the end of the semester, provided the instructor with information about which class activities achieved her learning goals for students and where students encountered difficulty.

How is looking at literature from primary, secondary, and tertiary points of view different from what you expected? How do you feel about embarking on this approach?

How did using marginalia on the text you read for today help you understand the piece and prepare for today’s class discussion?

What was it like to annotate the introduction letter the writing fellow and I wrote to you?

Why is developing a claim of interpretation difficult? What are the stumbling blocks you encountered? What parts of this process came more easily and why?

How was this experience of paper writing? How did it feel to abandon a strict outline and allow your ideas to develop freely? How was this different from how you usually write papers?

Respond to the process of getting responses from your peers. How did this process benefit you? What did you get out of receiving and performing reader response?

How was reading The Awakening different from reading the first book assigned for this course (now that you are aware of marginalia, your own position, rhetorical strategies, themes, symbols, levels of reading, etc…)?

Reflect on your experience with the first paper (the writing, the grade, the comments). How do you believe you will approach the next paper differently?

Explain your process in writing this final paper as it actually happened.

How do you feel now about your ability to read a text and develop your own response? How has this changed / developed for you?