

• **Personal Reading Inventory**

For this exercise, I would like you to think critically about your reading practices. Consider working through only a few of these questions at a time, either through a freewrite or in a group with your peers.

- What kinds of texts do you like to read and why? What do you gain from reading these texts?
- Describe what you do when you read. Is there a certain ritual that you follow to get ready to read? Where do you prefer to read and when? What kind of environment do you prefer to be in when you read?
- With a particular text in mind, describe your reading process. Do you go straight through the text to the end in a rush, or do you go slowly, patiently? Do you take frequent breaks? Listen to music? What else do you do while reading?
- In what ways has your reading process shifted since you started college? What have you learned, not through your reading, but about your reading?
- What keeps you from reading or helps you read?
- Why do you think so many people hate to read? If you are one of these people who despise reading, why? If you like to read, why? How have your experiences with reading shaped your attitude toward it?
- What is your attitude toward the novels/texts that were assigned to you in high school?
- Why do you think those particular novels were assigned? How do you think the high school reading list could be improved?
- What is your understanding of “The Canon”? How do you think “The Canon” is determined? Why do you think “The Canon” is now being criticized?
- Do you think that any interpretation of a text is valid? Do you think that the author determines the meaning of a text, that the reader does, or that both do? Why?
- How does reading connect to your writing? As a writer, when are you reading? Do you have different processes of reading for writing than reading for reading?