

**Contemporary American Fiction:  
Thinking Piece based on feedback from Essay #1, rough draft**

**Respond to the following prompts for each step on a piece of paper. You will hand this in at the end of class.**

**Step one: Respond to my comments**

- Do you have any questions about my comments? Which of my comments do you find most helpful, and why? Are there any of my comments that you disagree with, and why?

**Step two: Revision plan**

- What do you think were the strongest arguments in your draft? Why? Which arguments do you think you could expand on? Why?
- What do you think were the weakest arguments in your draft? Why? Why arguments do you think you could delete?
- Write a short brainstorm about how you envision making your essay stronger for your next draft. What concrete steps can you take? This could involve a combination of rewriting and rereading parts of the novel.

**Step three: Thesis statement**

- How do you feel about your thesis statement? What is strong about it? What are potential weaknesses in it? How do you think you can make it stronger? You can write a different version (or versions) of your thesis here, if you like.

**Step four: Thoughts about the process**

- How do you feel about this essay-writing process so far? How does it compare to other essays you've written in the past? Do you like this process more, or less? Do you find it easier, or harder? Why? What parts of this essay writing process might you take away for future writing projects in future classes? Are you the type of person that prefers essays or tests? Why? Does writing an essay make you nervous? Why or why not?

**Step five: Thoughts about your own writing**

- What do you think your greatest strengths as a writer? What do you think you do best? What do you enjoy most about writing?
- What do you think your greatest weaknesses are as a writer? What do you think you need to work on? What do you enjoy least about writing?

**Step six: Peer review**

- Exchange drafts with a partner. Read each other's drafts. Talk about what you think worked well in your partner's essay, and what you think he or she could do better. When you finish this, find a new partner, and repeat the exercise. (there's nothing to write for this step)