

ERWC: The Leopard Man Reading Activities

Activity 5: First Reading—Understanding the Essay (15 pts)

After your first reading, answer the following questions *in complete sentences*:

1. Why is Tom Leppard called “Leopard Man”?
2. What does the author think about people with tattoos and piercings? Why does he have these opinions?
3. How is Leopard Man different from other tattooed and pierced people?
4. Where does Leopard Man live?
5. According to Feys, what kind of people does society fear? Why?
6. What is the “world’s most common but dangerous psychological disorder” (par. 6)? Explain Feys’ argument in this paragraph.
7. Why is Leopard Man so happy?

8. What is Feys' final message to the reader? What does he want the reader to do?

Quickwrite

Take 5-10 minutes to write a journal entry about your understanding of the text at this point. What is the text about? What is your opinion of the author's main point so far? What parts confuse you? Why? Be prepared to discuss your reactions with the class.

Activity 6: Noticing Language (10 points)

This exercise will help you continue to build your understanding of the keywords in this essay, which will improve your overall comprehension of your reading. Working in groups, complete the chart for each of the words or concepts you have been assigned. Be prepared to present your findings to the class.

Word	Definition	Describe the Word	Example & Significance of Example

Activity 7: Annotating and Questioning the Text (20 pts)

Reread the text, and complete the following assignment on the article itself:

1. Highlight and label the following points in the essay in the left-hand margin:
 - Introduction
 - Issue or problem being addressed
 - Author's main arguments
 - Author's examples
 - Conclusion
2. Write in the right-hand margin your reactions to what the author is saying.
3. Highlight in another color any places where you were confused.

Activity 8: Analyzing Stylistic Choices (20 pts)

The questions below about the author's use of words and sentences will help you understand how the text works. Answer them in complete sentences. Be prepared to discuss your responses with others.

Words

1. What is the definition of "non-conformists" (par. 2)? What image comes to your mind when you hear this word?
2. How do the words "anti-social freak" (par. 2) make you feel? What image comes to mind when you hear those words?
3. Which words or synonyms are repeated? Why?

Sentences

1. What does Feys mean when he says, "Most anti-social freaks, in their obsession with displaying their freakishness, are just as dependent on others' opinions as approval-seeking socialites" (par. 2)? Explain what he means in this statement.

2. In paragraph 4, Feys says, “society looks down upon freakish and extraordinary individuals alike and views them with suspicion.” Who is he talking about when he says “freakish and extraordinary individuals”?

3. Are the sentences in this essay mostly long or short? Are they complex or simple? What effect might these choices of the author have on the reader?

Activity 9A: Mapping the Organizational Structure (15 pts)

Learning more about the structure of the text will give you a better understanding of the writer’s approach to his subject, which you can then apply to your own writing. Complete the following tasks individually:

1. Draw a line across the page where the introduction ends. Is it after the first paragraph, or are there several introductory paragraphs? How do you know?

2. Draw a line across the page where the conclusion begins. Is the last paragraph the conclusion, or are there several concluding paragraphs? How do you know?

3. Now divide the body of the text into sections by topics (what each section is about). Remember that the topic of a section may consist of more than one paragraph. Then, write a short description of what each section is about next to the numbers of the paragraphs included in that section.

Next, answer the following questions on the sections you have identified:

1. How does each section make you feel? What is the writer trying to accomplish in each?

2. Which section is the most developed? Why?

3. Which section is the least developed? What would make it more complete?

4. Which section is the most convincing or appealing to you? The least convincing or appealing?

5. On the basis of your map of the text, what do you think is the main argument?

Activity 9B: Mapping the Organizational Structure (15 pts)

Finally, make a map of the ideas in the article by doing the following:

1. In the circle in the center of the following page, put the text's main idea in the circle.

2. Write down and circle any related ideas. As you add ideas, draw a line to show what ideas they are related to.

3. Figure out how the ideas are related to one another. Are they examples? Does each example help explain the main point more? Jot down the relationships on the map.

