Analytical Essay 1:

In this essay, you are expected to give your own independent, interpretative position on the question below and to support your thinking with close reading and analysis. You will need to synthesize both texts and make connections between them. Utilize the skills we’ve practiced in class, especially on the Reading Quizzes.

**Texts:**

Dillon, Brian. “The Empty Space.” *Slate*. January 30, 2019.

Smith, Zadie. “Joy.” *The New York Review of Books*. January 10, 2013.

**Prompt:**

In the opening of her essay, “Joy,” Zadie Smith wrestles with a problem: “how we should make an accommodation between joy and the rest of our everyday lives” (1). She clarifies the difficulty of joy by turning to the idea of mourning, arguing that finitude and the pain of loss are necessary dimensions of joy. The particular pain of loss, and the grief that follows, is where Brian Dillon’s essay, “The Empty Space” begins. However, in this essay, it’s not clear if joy ever returns. In this essay you will consider both accounts of loss and the struggle *to live* to answer the following: **To what extent and in what ways can loss be accommodated in everyday life?**

**Thinking to get started:**

* List the different kinds of loss you see in both “Joy” and “Empty Space.” Think creatively and come up with as many different interpretations first. What are the differences between these losses? How do the two authors respond to them? What patterns do you see?
* What does it mean to “accommodate” loss? Do you see any examples? What are the two authors’ views?
* How would you describe “everyday life” in both essays? What is the feeling or texture? What is important to the authors? To yourself?

**Details to remember:**

**Rough draft: 3 full pages** Due: Tues 2/11, Canvas & in class. Bring 2 hard copies.

**Final draft: 4 full pages** Due: Mon 2/17, Canvas & in class. Bring 1 hard copy.

Formatting: Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double-spaced

MLA style: heading and title, 1” margins, parenthetical citations, Works Cited