ENGL 3000
Explication 2
DUE 03/20/18

<u>Overview</u>:

Explications are exercises in *close reading*, one of the primary skills necessary for literary analysis.

The word "explication" comes from the Latin term *explicare*, which means "to unfold"; accordingly, an explication unfolds or unpacks the meaning and workings of a literary text. Explications typically examine a text intensively, *line by line*, so they are usually used to interpret either short poems or short passages from longer works of fiction or drama.

An explication should account for all or most of the selected lines of the poem or passage, paying attention to whatever devices (connotations, allusions, metaphors and similes, symbols, rhythm, sounds, etc.) seem important. Explain how they relate to each other and to the overall meaning and/or effect of the work of literature.   Your explication should have a strong thesis, and the rest of the paper should clearly support that thesis (think of your thesis statement as answering the question, "What is this quote about in the context of the overall poem or essay?").

<u>Instructions</u>:

Write an essay that interprets "Thanksgiving" by Martin Espada. Build your argument on at least one formal element of the poem, and relate your interpretation of this/these formal element(s) to the content of the poem. Use at least two quotes from the poem in your essay. Make sure you explain the significance of the quote you choose as well as relate the quote to the significance of the poem as a whole.

Write approximately 500 words, double-spaced, 12pt. times new roman font. DO NOT EXCEED THE WORD LIMIT. INCLUDE A WORD COUNT AT THE END OF YOUR ESSAY.

Citation information for "Thanksgiving:"

Espada, Martin. "Thanksgiving." *A Mayan Astronomer in Hell's Kitchen*. New York: W.W.
       Norton & Company, 2000. 41-42.

Note: The lines from the beginning to "in the Bronx, turkey with arroz y habichuelas and plátanos" are on (41). The lines from "and countless cousins swaying to bugalú on the record player" to "that's when the Indians left" are on (42).