**Reflection: Context for Poetry of Szymborska**

**Homework:** Write a reflective essay on how your in-class research and discussion deepened your understanding of the cultural/historical/biographical context of Wislawa Szymborska’s poetry.

As for your previous reflections, I want you to reflect on the development of your own understanding. This is a metacognitive task. (“Metacognition” is awareness and understanding of one’s own thought processes.)

You are writing about the development of your own understanding, so you should write in first person (“I”).

You might say things like “I didn’t know that…,” “I was surprised to learn…,” etc.

You might also include questions you have, things you wonder about/would like to know.

You may mention the poetry if you wish, but the focus should be on the development of your understanding of context, not on analysis of the poetry.

While the primary focus should be on your own metacognitive processes, **I do want to see evidence of your research—**so you should include specific information about things you have learned—concrete facts about Szymborska’s life or examples of specific aspects of life under Nazism or Communism, etc. The particular details will depend on the particular aspects you personally researched—you don’t need to cover every single thing.

**Format:** 300-400 words, typed or written in black or dark blue ink.

**Evaluation:** 20 points, evaluated on:

--the extent to which it shows development of your understanding;

--inclusion of specific details from your research;

--clarity of writing—use of standard English conventions (**including appropriate paragraphing)** and clear communication of your ideas.