American Literature

Major Project: Rhetorical Analysis

Due: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by midnight (12:00am) in your English folder

What are you making us do now?

* You are going to write a rhetorical analysis on a work of literature.
* You choose the work of literature you’d like. Literature *includes* novels/books, short stories, and poetry. You may use a sample of poems by the same author. Literature does *not* include films, TV shows, video games, etc., for this essay.
* You need to analyze at least 1 aspect of the story’s rhetoric, such as:
  + Plot elements / plot structure
  + Figurative language
  + Archetypes
  + Ethos, pathos, logos
  + Critical theory
* You may choose to focus on one of the above aspects or several, depending on how much you have to say about the story’s rhetoric in that particular area.
* Your essay will be 4 pages (bottom of 4th page) and will include the following sections:
  + 1 paragraph introduction with a thesis statement previewing your three main sections and what your paper is basically about
  + 3+ paragraph story synopsis explaining the basic plot of the story
  + 3+ paragraph story context explaining the author’s life, the time in which the story was written, how it was originally published, etc.
  + 6+ paragraph textual analysis using at least 1 aspect of rhetoric
  + 1 paragraph conclusion that recaps your previous sections and ends with a statement of why this work of literature ultimately matters
* You may choose to write about any book, story, or poem(s) we’ve read in class or any previous independent reading book. You may not, however, reuse a previous paper. If you’ve written an archetypal analysis or critical analysis on a particular story in the past, you can’t do that same analysis on the same story again. That will count as basically self-plagiarism / incredible unfair laziness.

How is it graded?

* 100 points total (10% of semester grade)
* Content (50) – **Points deducted here for incomplete length.**
  + Introduction
  + Story synopsis
  + Story context
  + Textual analysis
  + Conclusion
* Conventions (20)
  + -1 point for every 2 minor grammar errors (spelling, capitalization, etc.)
  + -1 point for every 1 sentence error (run-on, fragment, comma-splice)
* MLA citations (20)
  + -1 point for every 2 minor MLA citation errors in-text and in works cited
  + You need to completely cite all of your sources to receive credit
* MLA Format (10)
  + 12 pt. Times New Roman, double-spaced font
  + Top left information
  + Top right page number
  + Correct title and spacing

You need to cite all sources used in your essay both in-text and in the works cited. Failure to cite all of your sources may be considered plagiarism and result in a 0 for the assignment. Please make sure you ask Mr. Schock questions about how to cite sources if you’re unsure.

You will for sure need at least 2 sources: The story itself (whether physical copy or online) and at least one source to give you context information.

The synopsis should be original and not quoted from another source.

You may consult external sources for your textual analysis, as long as at least 2/3 of the analysis is your own and not someone else’s.

Use your time wisely! Mr. Schock can only help you if you give him enough time to help you. Make sure you ask Mr. Schock questions *now*, not 2 days from the due date.