

Connections Essay

ENG 153 Intro to Literature

T/R 12:30-1:45

Dr. Alison Witte

Assignment

Your goals in this essay are (1) to demonstrate your ability to find a common theme in the literature that we have read thus far this semester and (2) to make a claim about that theme, supporting your claim with specific citations from the texts we have read.

What should your Connections Essay Look Like?

- Your essay should be 5-7 pages, double-spaced
- Your essay should use MLA format for citations and paper layout
- Your essay must include an MLA Works Cited page
 - THE WORKS CITED PAGE DOES NOT COUNT AS PART OF THE PAGE LIMIT

An important note about essays on literature: *you do NOT need to summarize each text you discuss. You can reference and describe relevant parts of the text, for example a particular line of a poem or a particular scene, but that discussion must be accompanied by some additional discussion that demonstrates how the reference supports your claims.*

Getting Started

Here are some questions to consider as you begin your essay. You may choose one of these or choose a theme of your own.

- How do various authors represent:
 - Authority?
 - Love?
 - Duty?
 - Gender?
 - Religion or Faith?
 - Fate or Destiny?
- How do these representations change over time?
- How do authors use their works to support or contradict a particular idea, philosophy, or social norm?
- What types of characters appear consistently in works we've read? Why?

Important Dates

- Thursday, Oct. 10 Connections Essay due Electronically to Moodle (NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS ACCEPTED)

Questions???

If you need help getting started or needs additional resources, contact me to set up an appointment and I can give you some direction.

Assessment

This assignment is worth 40 points (20% of your final grade). The following rubric will be used to assess your facilitation.

	Content	Organization	Presentation
Excellent (36-40 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The essay demonstrates the writer's ability to find a common theme in various types of texts. The essay contains substantial original discussion of texts, supported by several citations from assigned texts. The essay includes supporting citations from at least 4 texts we've read and shows the use of more than one type of text (poem, play or short story) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The essay has a thesis that makes a clear claim about the literature we've read. The essay has clear connections between paragraphs and sections that show how different texts are connected to the common theme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MLA citations, both in-text and on the Works Cited page, are correct with only a few minor errors The essay contains no major and only a few minor spelling and grammar errors.
Successful (30-35 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The essay demonstrates the writer's ability to find a common theme c, but that theme is not always clear or well defined The essay contains some original discussion of texts, supported by some citations from assigned texts, but also contains excessive summary of texts The essay includes supporting citations from at least 3 texts we've read and shows the use of more than one type of text (poem, play or short story) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The essay has a thesis that makes a claim about the literature we've read, but that claim is either not entirely clear or is not supported by the remainder of the essay The essay generally has clear connections between paragraphs and sections that show how different texts are connected to the common theme, but could use more direction in some spots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MLA citations, both in-text and on the Works Cited page, are correct with some minor errors The essay contains a few major and some minor spelling and grammar errors.
Unsuccessful (Less than 24 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The essay fails to demonstrate the writer's ability to find a common theme in various types of texts The essay contains little or no original discussion of texts, and mostly summarizes the texts The essay includes supporting citations from at least 2 texts we've read but does not show the use of more than one type of text (poem, play or short story) OR does not include citations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The essay has a thesis that makes some claim, that claim is either not related to our readings or is not supported by the remainder of the essay OR the essay has no thesis The essay lacks clear connections between paragraphs and sections that show how different texts are connected to the common theme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MLA citations, both in-text and on the Works Cited page, are incorrect OR contain many errors The essay contains several major and minor spelling and grammar errors.