

Researched Essay

ENG 153 Intro to Literature

T/R 12:30-1:45

Dr. Alison Witte

Assignment

This essay will serve as the final exam grade for this class. You will need to show what you have learned this semester about literature and about writing about literature.

Your goals in this essay are (1) to demonstrate your ability to use one or more of the critical approaches we have discussed this semester to make a claim about a text or texts we have read and (2) to support that claim with examples from the text, discussing how those examples support your claim and (3) to support that claim with additional research of published literary criticism.

What should your Connections Essay Look Like?

- Your essay should be 7-9 pages, double-spaced
- Your essay must include research from published literary criticism
- 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. These are only suggestions and you can go other directions.

- How is a particular character or object in a work symbolic? What does it represent and what message is the author trying to convey?
- How does an author's depictions of gender or gender roles reinforce or contradict social norms or stereotypes? How do these depictions impact the direction of the text or the audience response to the text?
- How does a particular author's use of specific words, phrases, or sentence structures convey a message to readers? How does this message relate to the overt message(s) of the text?
- How does the time period in which a text was written influence it's characters, plot, themes, style, or genre? How is a text typical of a time period or revolutionary or different for its time period?

Important Dates

- Wednesday, Dec.11 Researched Essay due Electronically to Moodle by the start of class (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 50 points (25% of your final grade). The following rubric will be used to assess your essay.

	Content	Organization	Presentation
Excellent (45-50 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The essay demonstrates the writer's ability to use a critical approach to make a claim about a text or text(s) The essay contains substantial original discussion, supported by several citations from the selected text(s) The essay includes supporting citations from at least 4 researched sources (books or literary journal articles) 	<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. Researched material is integrated smoothly with the use of signal phrases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MLA headings and headers are used correctly 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 (35-44 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The essay demonstrates the writer's ability to use a critical approach to make a claim, but that claim is not always strong or well defined The essay contains some original discussion, supported by some citations from the selected text(s), but also contains excessive summary of texts The essay includes supporting citations from at least 3 researched sources (books or literary journal articles) 	<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 Researched material is generally integrated smoothly with the use of signal phrases, but lacks context or a clear introduction in spots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MLA headers and headings are mostly correct, but contain a few minor errors 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 30 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The essay fails to demonstrate the writer's ability to use a critical approach to make a claim by not making a claim or making a claim that does not reflect a particular critical approach The essay contains little or no original discussion, and mostly summarizes the texts or strings together researched citations The essay includes supporting citations from less than 3 researched sources (books or literary journal articles) OR uses non-academic sources 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 Researched material is usually not integrated smoothly because signal phrases are not used or no context or clear introduction is provided for citations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MLA headers and headings are not used OR contain many errors 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.

