Final Literary Analysis Essay Criteria Sheet

For this final essay, choose one of your other essays written for this class (Essay on Short Fiction or Essay on Poetry/Drama Readings) to revise and expand extensively. **One way to do this is by incorporating analysis of at least one other reading of poetry, drama or fiction from our course into a polished, COHESIVE comparison paper.** A comparison paper is an option, not a requirement.

Remember that comparison papers do not simply list similarities and differences (Oh, look! “Young Girl’s Wish” and “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?” both have female protagonists!). Instead, you are to make larger connections and present and support a thoughtful literary thesis presenting and proving your interpretation of themes connecting the pieces.

This final essay will be a 6 – 8 page literary analysis essay using at least 4 or 5 scholarly secondary sources. These sources must be literary criticism but they can be from either online library databases or print sources (use the ENGL 122 Research Guide via the LCC library site). You must complete a works cited page where you list these sources as well as your primary sources (the pieces of literature) according to MLA style.

No late papers are accepted for this final essay – there just isn’t time. Remember, **you cannot pass the course unless you complete this final essay** which is worth 25% (250 points) of your grade. So... be on top of this schedule (see the Weekly Agendas the Reading/Assignment document for details).

The goal of this essay is for you to demonstrate all that you have learned in this class about literary analysis. You are writing for an academic audience who expects you to demonstrate:

☑ Insightful analysis and creative ideas
☑ Careful use of supporting details to prove your point.
☑ College-level mechanics (i.e. no grammatical or mechanical errors)

As with the other essays, remember that the focus is to write an essay where you argue your interpretation of overall meaning/theme using the primary text(s) and secondary source(s) to support you. **It is not a report on the author or the author’s life** – your interpretation and your argument are what matter. Remember, this is not a summary but an interpretive critical essay – convey your interpretation of the text’s meaning.

**Basics:**
☑ This essay must be **at least 6 full pages in length**. Essays that are shorter than 6 full pages may NOT pass.
☑ Use 12 point font (Times or Garamond) and 1 inch margins on all pages. (MLA guidelines)
☑ Give your essay an appropriate, interesting and creative title.
☑ Include a works cited page at the end (according to MLA conventions).
In preparation for your final research paper, this annotated bibliography assignment is an integral tool in helping one understand how research on a particular idea or text engages a project in an on-going academic conversation. Placing your own work into that dynamic is not always an easy task; therefore, by synthesizing and reflecting critically on at least 5 relevant sources that you are considering using for your final research paper, you will be able to more easily focus your argument while avoiding “cutting and pasting” outside sources into your paper.

SOURCES

Your annotated bibliography should contain at least 5 entries, and should meet the following criteria:

- Your sources must come from scholarly publications (peer reviewed)
- You must include a variety of types of sources (journal articles, books, etc.).
- You must include sources that provide a variety of perspectives on approach you plan to take.
- Do not include encyclopedia or dictionary entries (You may consult these to learn background materials about your topic, but they will not count as one of your 5+ sources)
- **DO NOT** include your primary source(s) (i.e. the story, poem or play) – this assignment calls for you to annotate external/secondary sources. You will not get credit for an annotation of your primary source or for improper sources in general. **FORMAT** For each of your sources, you should include an entry with relevant publication information in MLA format **as it would appear on a works cited page** followed by your annotation on the source.

ANNOTATIONS Your annotations for each of your sources should be 220-250 words and do the following (review the Annotated Bibliography in the Example Assignments folder):

1. Summarize the source (chapter, book, article, or the like).
2. Identify the piece’s argument (thesis/main point)
3. Rely primarily on your own words and phrasing—use summary and paraphrase.
4. Discuss the source’s strengths and weaknesses. For example:
   a. Does the item offer a good introduction to its larger concepts?
   b. Does the item deal with a particular aspect of critical analysis that is especially relevant to the approach you plan to take in your essay?
   c. Do you find the piece accessible or is it geared to a more specialized audience?
5. Describe how this piece will contribute to your project. Clearly this last one will be very important to you/your final essay and the grade for this assignment