***Introduction to Literature – Analytical Essay***

Students will choose one of two essay choices: a *Poetry Essay or*  a *Short Story Essay.* The essay will be a 3 to 4 page, C-E-C analytical essay (900+ words). Using examples from the text to support your thesis, a minimum of two quotes per body paragraph is required. Be sure to use MLA format and include a Works Cited. Please note that no outside sources are required, however, if you do use any outside sources you must include them in your Works Cited. A copy of your outline must be turned in (can be hand-written), but the essay must be created in google docs in your google folder.

***Poetry Essay Option #1***

For this essay, you will choose one theme, symbol, image, etc., that you found compelling in one of the poems read for this course, and discuss how this technique contributes to the overall effectiveness of the work. Your literary analysis must be well-conceived, focused and carefully argued.

***Short Story Essay Option #2***

For this essay option, you will write an analytical essay that explores symbolism, characterization, theme, point of view, etc., in one of the short stories read for this course, and discuss how this technique contributes to the overall effectiveness of the work. *Please note that you may not use a short story that you presented in your Individual Oral Presentation*

***The Essay***

The essays will be peer edited in class: students will read aloud their papers in their group, with copies made available to their group. Students will then critique each essay, making suggestions for revision as well as noting those aspects of the essay that were particularly noteworthy.

Final essays will then be evaluated based on the effectiveness of the thesis, evidence provided to support the thesis, and revisions made as per peer suggestions as well as sentence structure, effective/logical organization, use of effective and appropriate vocabulary, use of effective rhetoric and control of tone and voice as appropriate to the audience. Part of the grade includes proper use of MLA formatting for layout, quotes, etc.

Your essays will be graded according to the expectations as listed above. You must meet the minimum requirements in order to succeed on this essay. A further explanation of grading can be found below.

A range essays will exhibit expertise in terms of structure, organization, sentence structure, analysis, voice, and style. A range essays have effectively addressed the primary elements of the reading (as listed above) and have also incorporated further analysis as it pertains to some of the minor elements of the piece. All claims are backed up by relevant examples from the text. Quotations are of an appropriate length (not too long/ short) for the analysis presented, and are introduced and explained in an effective and stylistic compelling manner.

B range essays have the primary properties as above but may be lacking in one or two of the areas mentioned. The voice of the author may be less defined, the analysis, while perhaps effective, might need further development, the structure, while adequate, could be developed in a more advanced manner. Minor elements might be overlooked, and quotations might have been presented in a more effective way.

C range essays will have the primary properties as above but may have inaccurately interpreted particular pieces of information, failed to include one of the major elements of the piece, have some structural/ organizational errors, contain quotations of inappropriate length, and/ or provide points of analysis that do not align with the section being analyzed.

***Things to Consider***

\* Choose a topic that interests you. The best papers are ones in which the author is deeply affected by and attracted to the topic.

\* Make sure your topic is not too “big.” It is better to have a specific focus.

\* Make sure your argument is focused and clear. Remember, a good thesis statement is arguable; it clearly states the topic as well as answers the question “why” this topic is important.

\* Don’t forget to use the Owl at Purdue Online Writing Lab as a source for your MLA questions – especially for quoting poetry properly.