

ENG 102 -- Composition II

Dragan

Essay #1 – Reading Short Stories (A Short Research Paper): Page One with Thesis and Works Cited Page (With Annotations)

For our 2nd paper – a short research paper, you will read two stories by the same author and make an argument about the use of one or two ‘elements’ (characters, settings, point of view, plot, epiphany, politics, gender etc.) by that author based on "close reading" of these two texts. **This is an ‘analytical’ comparison and contrast paper between two stories by the same author.** You are also asked to find one critic who comments on the work of your author in some way as a starting point – either from an encyclopedia article or book review.

***THERE ARE 8 RESEARCH TOPICS WITH 2 STORIES BY 5 AUTHORS FROM OUR SYLLABUS AND A THESIS STATEMENT THAT YOU SHOULD USE FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT.

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF THESE TOPICS, WHICH HAVE BEEN ‘DISCOVERED,’ DEVELOPED AND REFINED OVER A DECADE OF ENG102 CLASSES!

In our compressed 6-week format for our online class, you will save a lot of time by getting to your topic this way. Of course, in a 12-week semester, we allow you to develop your own topic (by browsing short story collections or magazine issues.) *We just don't have time to do that in the 3 weeks remaining in the course!*

(One of the topics, reading a magazine issue with Jamaica Kincaid's "Girl" is just a little different and instead of a 2nd story, you would compare this story to the content that surrounds it in this magazine issue – ads and other articles. In previous versions of this course, ‘reading a magazine issue’ was a topic for more authors on the syllabus. For this 6-week online version of this course, however, all of the topics -- except this one -- are on comparing 2 short stories.)

Here is the link to the 8 topics:

<https://bit.ly/3tIUU0O>

BROWSE THESE TOPICS AND EXPLORE THE LINKS TO SHORT STORIES SOON!

CHOOSE ONE TOPIC SOON! FIND A TOPIC THAT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN (at least interested enough to work on for the 2nd half of our course for about 3 weeks).

Once you choose a topic and a thesis statement, you would build an argument using quotes from your two stories, backed up by other selected sources (see the requirements below).

However, the heart or focus of this kind of research paper is a 'close reading' or analysis of your two stories (backed up with your quotes and explanations). It is not a report on the life of the author, or a guide to all their works, etc.

Research Requirements:

- ❑ SOURCE #1 and SOURCE #2 – 2 short stories by one of the authors from our syllabus.

These 2 short stories are provided for you – along with correct MLA citations. JUST COPY THEM INTO YOUR WORKS CITED PAGE!

***For the focus of your paper, you are expected to analyze two stories around the common use of elements, idea or other point of connection.

- ❑ SOURCE #3 – An **encyclopedia article** on your author from the **Gale Virtual Reference Library** (a 'responsible' Library database with 100s of specialized encyclopedias). YOU ARE EXPECTED TO USE THIS DATABASE, NOT WIKIPEDIA, which is almost never used for college-level papers.

Hint: Use the search terms provided in the 8 Research Paper topics handout to guide you with your search in this database.

- ❑ SOURCE #4 – A **book review** on your author's work – it can be about a book written by your author (for more recent writers) or a book written about your author by someone else.

Hint: Again, use the search terms provided in the 8 Research Paper topics handout to guide you with your search in this database.

We will be providing help with creating a Works Cited page – including tools to automate the process of creating citations – and several examples of work on this research paper from previous classes to guide you!

***WHAT TO TURN IN FOR MILESTONE #1 – PAGE ONE AND WORKS CITED PAGE WITH 3 SOURCES (AND ANNOTATIONS):

- 1) Page One of your essay with the introduction, a quote from one of your sources (the encyclopedia article or the book review) – which we are calling a framing quote, ending with the thesis statement (with the exact wording from your topic). **This is one page or about 250**

words only. Please do not try to do a 'brain dump' of the (unfinished) body of your paper, because it won't help you write a successful full draft.

This is the first page (about 250 words) with the introduction and thesis or argument for your essay. See below for some suggestions about how to begin this paper.

2) A Works Cited page listing as many of your sources as you can find based on the above requirements for your type of research paper. Aim for at least 3 for this 1st milestone for full credit. (It makes sense to finish the job with all 4 sources if you can!)

Please format your Works Cited page according to MLA style. We will be going over the 'rules' for MLA citations, but you'll use tools to generate (mostly correct) citations. You'll get feedback on this milestone to help you improve your citations (because the tools won't always get it right).

3) Annotations for as many of your sources as you can find on your Works Cited pages.

Please write these up and intersperse them within your Works Cited entries. Annotations are short descriptions (aim for about 3 sentences) of what each of your sources contains. A good annotation tells us what type of source you have found. (For example, "This encyclopedia article..." or "This book review...") Then give us a bit of what is in your source, with 2 or 3 sentences of summary or description for each source.

● **ESSAY #2 MILESTONE #1 DUE DATE: FRI. 2/4 (11:59 pm)**

PLEASE DOUBLE SPACE ALL WORK FOR THIS CLASS. Try to format your paper with as an actual MLA paper – with a correct heading, title and page numbers with your last name at the top right-hand corner.

● **SOME HINTS FOR PAGE ONE and YOUR THESIS:**

DO NOT attempt to summarize the history of literature or make a really broad generalization in the introduction.

DO NOT try to summarize the entire life of your author based on biographical information.

DO introduce your two short stories by author and title. Give us ONE SENTENCE MAX. ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE ABOUT. Save your real in-depth discussion for your body paragraphs. No quotes here from your short stories either – you should save them for your body paragraphs.

DO use a short quote and a cite from either your encyclopedia article or your book review to set up a 'critical' idea about paper. (Using this 'framing quote' tells the reader that this is a college-level research paper – that's 'writing from sources.')

DO use the exact thesis from your chosen research topic at the end of your introduction.

****WE WILL GIVE YOU EXAMPLES OF THIS MILESTONE #1 / PAGE ONE SOON TO HELP YOU AS YOU RESEARCH AND BEGIN THIS ESSAY!****