

Short Essay #4 Prompt

Overview

For this assignment, you will need to write a 1-3 page essay on the primary work you have chosen to focus on for your final seminar paper. Like all good essays, your essay should have a thesis that is supported by textual evidence. In this case, you should be beginning to state and support the rough thesis that you will be using for your final paper due at the end of the semester. You can think of this short essay like a rough draft of a rough draft of that paper: this is an opportunity to begin working on your ideas with minimal grade implications. It is ok if everything is not fleshed out, or if you are confused about what you are even writing about. I just want to see you starting to try to articulate your thesis and then using evidence from the text to support your claim. You will even be able later to copy and paste the entirety of this essay, if you want, into your final paper (but you of course may want to revise it). In other words, if you write three pages now, you are also potentially three pages into writing a rough draft for your final paper too.

Because of the brevity of this assignment, it may be helpful to focus on one particular part or scene rather than the entirety of your chosen work. In a novel, for instance, is there one scene that demonstrates the central problem that you are interested in? How? In a poem, is there a particular image that is especially significant? Why? Show me with specific details drawn from the text.

Also, remember that whenever you use any information that is not common knowledge, you need to provide a citation to the source of your information. For example, that the sun is yellow is common knowledge, as is that there was an American revolutionary war. The major concepts of interpreting literature, sadly, are not common knowledge.

Finally, in this class we will be using MLA citation. More information about MLA citation can be found at the Purdue Owl website here: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_style_introduction.html.

Due Date: Thursday, November 1st