English 214

Prof. Vail

**Analytical Essay**

**Scholarly Articles due in Class: Nov. 18th**

**Paper Due Date: Dec. 2nd**

For this assignment, you will develop **your own thesis, one that you will write based on one of the options below.** This will be a **five to six-** page essay that willbe based on a discussion concerning *Wide Sargasso Sea* and *The English Patient*. **Your paper must include references from four academic/scholarly articles and/or books as support for your thesis.** You may not use popular/internet sources. For your paper, you must choose one of the following topics:

**Option One**: In *Wide Sargasso Sea* and *The English Patient*, Rhys and Ondaatje use the motif of the “looking glass” to drive home their theme and purpose. In doing so, the “looking glass” acts as a controlling device, one that enriches the arc of the text and brings the struggles and/or triumphs of the characters to the surface.

**Option Two**: During the semester, we have discussed the concept of “the other.” Please discuss the ways in which both Rhys and Ondaatje use such a construct in *The English Patient* and *Wide Sargasso Sea.*

**Option Three**: Both *Wide Sargasso Sea* and *The English Patient* can be viewed as novels of memory. For this thesis, you must discuss the ways in which the authors use modern and postmodern devices to portray **memory as revelation,** a way into the consciousness of the characters as they view past, present and future.

Remember, this is a short paper. **The more specific your thesis**, the more sophisticated and targeted your discussion will be. A highly refined thesis will also make your work easier. **You must use four scholarly sources** – failure to do so will lead to a severe deduction from your letter grade.

You will compare, analyze and synthesize the texts in relation to your thesis. To do so, you will need to provide quotations from the texts that you are working with, along with corresponding page numbers in MLA style. You will also need to consult and use at least **four** academic articles or books (secondary sources) two for each text, as support for your paper. These sources must be **peer reviewed** **academic and scholarly journal articles** that you will be able to locate through the Iona Library Online Databases. **You may not use any online popular sites for your paper.** The use of popular internet sites will automatically result in a zero for the paper.

Remember, you do not need to find source material that duplicates your own thesis. Rather, you may find information written by academics that enriches and/or extends your discussion. It should highlight and add depth to your thesis.

I encourage all of you to consult with a librarian at Ryan as you search for your sources.

You should also feel free to speak with me at any point as you work to identify your sources.

**IMPORTANT NOTE ON PLAGIARISM:**

In your paper, you must give credit to any source used. As you know, plagiarism consists of presenting the thoughts, ideas or words of another writer or researcher as your own. For this paper, **you must use only approved scholarly sources** and all sources must be listed on your Works Cited Page. Remember: PLAGIARISM IS A SERIOUS OFFENSE. Please refer to the course syllabus and the Student Handbook for detailed information concerning the consequences of plagiarism.

**ALL PAPERS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO TURNITIN AND OR SAFEASSIGN.**

**MLA STYLE SHEET:** Your paper must follow the guidelines of the MLA Style Sheet for the proper format regarding the items numbered below. You may consult the following website for complete instructions regarding the MLA format: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

For those of you who have the ***Little Brown Handbook*** or *The Little Seagull Handbook,* you may consult your text.

Remember: You must use the third person throughout your paper. You should not use I, you, are we. For example, instead of saying “I believe” you would say something like “it is apparent.”

You must use **MLA** for all of the following:

1. ***Paper Heading***
2. ***Type Style: 12 pt. Times Roman***
3. ***Double spaced throughout***
4. ***Parenthetical Citations when quoting or paraphrasing material***
5. ***Works Cited Page***

Please make sure that your name and page number appear on every page. You should use the proper Word tab to do this automatically.

**Parenthetical Citations**: You will be able to use parenthetical citations for all quotes and paraphrased material. This makes your job easy, as it means that for all references you will include the citation within your paper by listing the author’s last name and the page number after the material that you are referencing.

For example: (Wharton 10) and (Smith 83). (This is MLA format for parenthetical citations).

If you quote material, please follow this example: Smith states that “Emily would like to remain unmarried” (189).

OR: One critic claims that “Emily would like to remain unmarried” (Smith 189).

Finally, your paper must also be stapled.

**Remember, this is your analytical essay.** It is based on a thesis that **you** apply to the texts. Secondary sources (journal articles and reference books) should only be used to strengthen your own argument. They should not drive your paper but rather assist you in proving your points. Academic articles help to make your thesis scholarly and credible, rather than opinionated. The essay template calls for at least four references from scholarly sources. **You should have at least two direct quotations from each source.** In each case, a parenthetical citation must be attached, in accordance with MLA format. The remainder of your paper should be comprised of **your own analysis.**

**Suggested** **Paper Outline**

The following represents an ideal outline for your paper. Working with this template is to your advantage as your paper will be well organized and accomplish what it sets out to do. You will find that your job is made easier by following the outline. You will not have to waste time and energy trying to decide what to write about. **Also, you will avoid a common pitfall in that you will not spend too much time on summary.**  As you follow this outline, your paper becomes a true analysis and your ideas and argument will flow easily from one to the other.

**Your paper should include the following:**

**First Paragraph:**

1. **A** **Pretext:** This is your analytical question. Your thesis will answer your initial question.
2. **The Pretext should be followed by an important quotation from one of the books –** this can appear anywhere in the first paragraph.
3. **Your Thesis:** You will be comparing the two texts by articulating your thesis statement. Your thesis must appear as a clear and concise statement at the end of this, your first paragraph.
4. You should use the funnel method for the paragraph, as explained in class.

**Text One:**

3. **One Paragraph Summary**

A. A discussion of the most important actions (plot) of Text One as they relate to your topic and thesis. You should highlight the events in the story that will be most important to your overall comparison. This paragraph should take up no more than four of five sentences.

**Text Two**

4. **One Paragraph Summary**

B. A discussion of the most important actions (plot) of Text Two as they relate to your topic and thesis. You should highlight the events in the story that will be most important to your overall comparison. This paragraph should take up no more than four to five sentences.

5. New Paragraph: **Return to and expansion of your Thesis**

6. **Analysis of Text One:**

You will discuss the ways in which your thesis is exemplified in the test. Please provide as many examples as possible. **These examples will be your evidence.**  In this section, you **must also include at least four direct quotes from the text as support for your statements with page numbers in the form of parenthetical citations. Finally, you must include at least two references from your scholarly secondary sources with page numbers in the form of parenthetical citations.**

a. Evidence (from the text –your discussion with the inclusion of a direct quote)

b. Evidence (from the text –your discussion with the inclusion of a direct quote)

c. Evidence (from the text –your discussion with the inclusion of a direct quote

d. Evidence (from the text – your discussion with an inclusion of a direct quote)

e. Evidence (from scholarly source – direct quote)

f. Evidence (from additional scholarly source – direct quote)

1. **Transition to the Second Text:** A sentence or two that allows you to smoothly move to the next text.

8. **Analysis of Text Two**

You will discuss the ways in which your thesis, is exemplified in the test. Please provide as many examples as possible. **These examples will be your evidence.**  In this section, you **must also include at least four quotes from the text as support for your statements with page numbers in the form of parenthetical citations. Finally, you must include at least two references from your scholarly secondary sources with page numbers in the form of parenthetical citations.**

a. Evidence (from the text –your discussion with the inclusion of a direct quote)

b. Evidence (from the text –your discussion with the inclusion of a direct quote)

c. Evidence (from the text –your discussion with the inclusion of a direct quote)

d. Evidence (from the text –your discussion with the inclusion of a direct quote)

e. Evidence (from scholarly source – direct quote)

f. Evidence (from additional scholarly source – direct quote)

9. **Similarities:** Discussion concerning the similarities between the two texts **in relation to your thesis.**

1. Evidence (from the text)
2. Evidence (from the text)

10. **Differences:** Discussion concerning the differences between the two texts in **relation to your thesis.**

a. Evidence (from the text)

b. Evidence (from the text)

11. **Significance:**

Reflection and critique – what is the significance of the thesis?

How does your thesis exemplify the purpose of the authors? How does it drive home theme?

a. Evidence (from the text)- Direct Quote

b. Evidence (from the text)- Direct Quote

12. **Final Synthesis of the two Texts:**

What essential truths are revealed? What does one gain by viewing these texts in light of your thesis? How is one’s reading of the texts enriched by your analysis?

13. Conclusion

Are there universal truths revealed? What should we take away from our reading? How are we enriched by such a reading?