

ENGL 2132

Prof. Bishop

Essay #2

Spring 2010

Due Date: 6 April 2010, at the beginning of class

Objective: Students will demonstrate proficiency with the terms and concepts relevant to the periods of Romanticism, Realism, and Naturalism by writing an argumentative essay about one of the text covered in class.

Directions: Students will write an argumentative essay of at least 750 words that addresses one of the topics listed below. All essays will be graded according to the course rubric. All essays must adhere to MLA format.

Topics:

- A. Make an argument that Chopin's *The Awakening* is a Romantic, a Realist, or a Naturalist text. Be specific in your assertions; use the primary characteristics of the period you think best addresses the text. Ultimately, you want to argue how and why it fits into a specific period. Be specific in your textual evidence.
- B. Make an argument about the use of Naturalistic characteristics in Crane's "The Open Boat." Be specific in your assertions; use the primary characteristics of the period you think best addresses the text. Ultimately, you want to argue how and why it fits into a specific period. Be specific in your textual evidence.
- C. Make an argument that Chestnut's "Goopherd Grapevine" is a Romantic or Realist text. Be specific in your assertions; use the primary characteristics of the period you think best addresses the text. Ultimately, you want to argue how and why it fits into a specific period. Be specific in your textual evidence.
- D. Make an argument that James' *Daisy Miller* is a Romantic, a Realist, or a Naturalist text. Be specific in your assertions; use the primary characteristics of the period you think best addresses the text. Ultimately, you want to argue how and why it fits into a specific period. Be specific in your textual evidence.
- E. Consider the similarities between two of the texts covered in class and make an argument about the use of specific characteristics from one of the periods discussed in class. Be specific in your assertions; use the primary characteristics of the period you think best addresses the text. Ultimately, you want to argue how and why it fits into a specific period. Be specific in your textual evidence.
- F. Discuss one of the American traits, as developed in the first part of the term, and how that trait gets passed on to the writers of Realism and/or Naturalism. Be specific in your assertions; use the primary American traits you think are best addressed in the text.

Ultimately, you want to argue how and why this trait appears and is used. Be specific in your textual evidence.

- G. Focus on the treatment of women in the works of Chopin and James and make an argument about cultural expectations of women in the texts. What might the authors be suggesting about American culture and our treatment of women? Be specific in your evidence; argue how and why these representations occur.
- H. Come up with your own topic. **YOU MUST HAVE PRIOR APPROVAL FOR THIS OPTION.**

No outside sources may be used. You may use your book and any handouts on the course web site. No other sources will be accepted. Any essay that uses outside sources will fail and will violate the Academic Integrity Policy of this course. If you have taken notes in class, you have plenty of material with which to work. If you have not taken notes...

The essay will be graded using the class Rubric available on the course web site.

The essay must adhere to MLA formatting and guidelines for essays.