

English 11 Honors

Mr. Gens - Summer Reading/Writing Assignment – Summer 2019

Welcome to English 11 Honors – For our Summer Project, we will begin to explore different theoretical and structural elements necessary for the construction of advanced writing at the high school level. Whether it is constructing a detail-oriented analysis of argumentative techniques or learning to structure our ideas based on traditional forms, it is vital for us as a class to challenge ourselves through content and literature. The purpose of this assignment is for us to take our first steps towards completing these ends. Through the text and the assignment, we will develop a baseline for our studies that will prove valuable throughout the year.

The expectation of this assignment is that you will read a text that is a challenge in both form and content. After reading this text, you will render a presentation that not only addresses your position on the text, but a problem within that text of nonfiction value that can be solved. You must have a clear focus to your argument as well as a coherent structure that aids in the development of your ideas. Remember, this is scholarly work. The presentation you produce should look professional and contain a great deal of effort. Significant structural mistakes are not acceptable at this level of education.

What I Should See in Your Presentation

- An Introduction that develops what you plan to argue and garners the attention of the audience. Be creative. The introduction should end in a thesis statement that has clearly synthesized your argument. All of these items should be direct to the text and specific.
- Structured slides that have focus and connection. Each slide naturally flows from one to the next with the speaker being sure to provide transition.
- Textual Support, properly cited, that works to prove your argument.
- Significant analysis and questions that you want to address within each paragraph (not summary) of your quotes.
- Clear reference to the text. The argument must have textual backing.
- Proper MLA citation format when necessary.
- A direct and clear way in which the nonfiction problem you choose is solved through your analysis of the text.
- Clean and Polished. The presentation should show evidence of practice and thorough knowledge of your topic.
- The presentation does not focus on basic or elementary insights. The expectation is that you are coming to a clear and specific point that is obvious to the listener.
- Works Cited Slide at the end.
- Attention to the rubric. We will review and discuss the rubric during the first few days of class.

Text - 1984 by George Orwell

The assignment is also posted to Google Classroom - Use your school Google account to sign in (classroom.google.com)

CODE: u0yxj5

Assignment Checklist

_____ - Read your text. Take copious notes to aid you in creating your outline and your analysis during the semester. The evidence of these notes will be in the details of your presentation.

_____ - Presentation – Construct a presentation of the arguments you plan to make in your paper. The presentation should be 5 minutes and it should include a visual aid (Power Point or Prezi). **The visual aid will be due the night before your presentation - NOT THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS. We will schedule the presentations during the first days of class.** Most students will utilize their outline structure to construct this Presentation. Students should be prepared to answer questions and discuss their arguments. Develop a topic based off your interest in the text. Please make sure that you list the quotes you intend to use as well as how you intend to analyze the quotes. Provide strong focus and at the beginning of each section to ensure cohesion in your presentation. Consider the aspects of the novel that are most important: Recurring tropes, images, sayings, symbols, construction of the narrative, following/rejection of narrative expectations. Please make sure that you develop an outline for your presentation that I can follow as I view the presentation. This presentation requires you to cite textual information from the text itself and any outside research that you find (outside research is not asked for or required). The biggest mistake that students make on this assignment is merely **highlighting** when their ideas occur. Your job is to argue your thesis through a close reading of the quotes. This is much different from highlighting and explaining. The second part of your assignment is to attach your reading to a nonfiction problem (poverty, gender identity, political concerns, religious concerns, etc.). The nonfiction topic could be any specific social or political issues you care about studying. **PLEASE BE AWARE – BE AS SPECIFIC WITH YOUR TOPIC AS POSSIBLE – ONLY ONE PERSON PER TOPIC – FIRST COME FIRST SERVED – YOU WILL SIGN UP ON A GOOGLE SHEET THAT WILL BE POSTED TO CLASSROOM.**

Possible Prompts to Consider (Please remember these are simply options and not all need to be answered):

1. What role does religion play in your chosen text? Is it used as a negative or positive force or does it not fit simply into these categories? How does religion work to restrict identity but also provide options for expression?
2. How is female identity constructed in the text? Do women have power and agency or are they controlled by the dominant power structure? What exactly makes this power/lack power possible?
3. How is marriage portrayed in the text? Is it a happy institution or one that requires confinement? Does it allow for freedom and what may provide that freedom?
4. What is the role of the role of madness (insanity) in your text? How do alternate states of human consciousness inform upon the characters and the overall meaning of the text?
5. How is male identity constructed in the text? What makes men powerful or weak? What is their place within the power structure of the text?
6. How does landscape play an important role in text? Do characters come to an epiphany, or moment of insight, in specific geographical/natural locations? What does this suggest about landscapes within the text?
7. In parts of the texts, substance abuse plays a significant role in the development of characters. Oftentimes, these abuses may seem entertaining or humorous, but tend to become tragic flaws of those unable to control human vice. How does substance abuse indicate insecurity, desire for experience, addiction, or simply bohemian excess? What do these behaviors seem to repress or instigate within the human condition?
8. How is the idea of evil or monstrosity constructed in your text? Why is something evil and how is it marked in society? What do specific societal anxieties over death and evil seem to indicate about the culture itself?
9. What role does wealth or capital play in the construction of your text? Are characters with money and power valued, cherished, evil, manipulative, restless, useless, or merely pragmatic? How does your text construct the relationship of money in regards to the characters involved in the social structure?
10. How is racial and ethnic identity constructed? What argument is Orwell making about power structures and personal identity through these means? How does a character's racial and ethnic identity function in the text?