Literary Analysis Essay—LA 12

Due January 9, 2013 (email to afnorthliterature@gmail.com). NO LATE PAPERS!!!

This paper will require the use of multiple sources from a literary period and applying its values to the literature that you select. This essay should provide a thorough analysis of three works from three different writers. It should be 1200-1500 words and follow MLA format. Further information about approaching this essay as well as an example is available in the textbook (p.684-691).

The following literary periods can be used and the textbook should serve as background knowledge and the main resource for this paper, as well as handouts of texts that you have received. An additional resource, *Great English Essays (GEE)*, can assist with selection of texts for the Renaissance as well as the Restoration and Enlightenment.

Middle Ages—1066-1485 (p. 111-129): Ballads, Chaucer, Courtly Romances and Chivalric Tales

Renaissance—1485-1660 (p. 269-292): Marlowe, Raleigh, Herrick, Marvell, Shakespeare, Bacon, Donne, Milton, Elizabeth I, Margaret Cavendish; GEE: Bacon, Fuller, Feltham

Restoration and Enlightenment—1660-1800 (p. 559-578): Pope, Cervantes, Voltaire, Wollstonecraft, Chudleigh, Defoe; GEE: Swift, Addison, Steele, Johnson, Reynolds, Goldsmith, Boswell

A Writer’s Framework

Introduction

* Introduce the literary period and provide background information about that period
* In a thesis statement, identify the literary period, the literary trend, and how the authors discussed in the essay develop the ideas and trends of the time.

Body

* Develop the major points that support the thesis. I suggest one or two body paragraphs by author where you highlight specific stylistic devices (figurative language, irony, imagery, diction) that they use to suit their purposes and the purposes of the literature of the time period. Additionally, you should consider how their views serve as examples of the views of the time period.
* Use at least 3 pieces of fully elaborated literary evidence to support your analysis of a specific point. Thus, three citations per body paragraph with analysis. Quotations should be introduced smooth so that they don’t interrupt the flow of thought. Don’t just place quotations as separate sentences in your essay.
* Organize the author’s in the essay in chronological order to develop the evolution of ideas in the literary period.

Conclusion

* Restate, but don’t repeat your thesis. Remind the reader of the how the works highlight the core values of the period.
* Close with a final observation on the literary works or on the literary period.