

## **EN201 Short Papers – Short Paper #2**

Three times during the semester, you will write a short paper based on the assigned readings or class discussion. The essay should be at least 500 words. You should use 12 pt font, Times New Roman, double-spaced, and 1-inch margins. You should also use appropriate in-text citations for any quotations or paraphrases that you use. This also means that you should include a works cited page listing the sources you use (even if it is just the primary text). Please use MLA documentation style.

At least two of these short papers should be thesis-driven and follow the traditional essay format (i.e. introduction / body / conclusion). You will need to have a thesis statement and supporting examples and points from the texts. Be specific and use quotes and paraphrases from the text(s). It will be a better paper if you go into detail and depth about one aspect, rather than trying to cover a really big or broad idea and only analyze it superficially. Please see the grading rubric for details about how I will assess your essays.

You also have the option of making one of the three short papers a creative response. You still need to engage with the literary text(s) and address the focus of the prompt, but you can do so in more creative ways. For example, you might imagine an actual conversation/dialogue between a character in one text with a character in another text (perhaps one character speaks in prose while the other speaks in verse?). Or you might rewrite a short story or poem in a different genre (turn “The Raven” into a play?). I will leave the details up to you, but if you are unsure whether your idea would work, simply ask. Again, refer to the grading rubric for guidance.

For this second short paper, you should focus on genre. We have read several different genres by this point (tale, poetry, drama, short story) and discussed the basic characteristics of the genres. Choose at least one text we have read this semester and write about how genre influenced it. What role does genre play in the overall meaning or significance of the text? How does the author take advantage of genre characteristics to make a point? Or how does the author bend the “rules” of the genre? As always, you can write a thesis-driven analytical essay or write a more creative response.