

EN201 Short Papers

Three times during the semester, you will write a short paper based on the assigned readings or class discussion. You will compare two texts we have read for class. Focus on one aspect they have in common and explore it thoroughly. You should consider how analyzing these two texts together provides us with a better understanding of both texts.

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 put two texts in conversation with one another, 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. Or you might write a new short story or poem that incorporates aspects of two different texts. 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.