

ENGL 306 Essay 1: *Paul and Virginia* and *Tiger!* (16.67% of final grade)

Write an analytical essay that focuses on Bernardin de Saint Pierre's *Paul and Virginia* and/or Mochtar Lubis's *Tiger!* and reflects your knowledge about issues raised in the book. Be sure to support your analysis with specific examples from the book(s) that are properly cited, per MLA guidelines.

LENGTH: 1100-1500 words (about 4-5 pages), + Works Cited

DUE DATES: Draft: Tuesday 2/6; Final: Thursday 2/8, via Blackboard Safe Assign BEFORE CLASS

I: What is the role of the **physical environment** in the novel(s)? Why is this role important (what does this depiction of the environment reveal about historical/cultural/environmental issues from either today or the period when the novel was written)? Both novels feature the physical environment playing a key role in both the unfolding of the plot and the development of characters. What do these novels reveal about non-human nature in either historical or contemporary cultural contexts? There can be more than one role.

II: What is the role of the **animals** in the novel(s)? Why is this role important (what does this depiction of animals reveal about historical/cultural/environmental issues from either today or the period when the novel was written)? Both novels feature animals playing a role in both the unfolding of the plot and the development of characters. What do these novels reveal about non-human nature in either historical or contemporary cultural contexts? There can be more than one role.

III: Describe the dynamics of **power** in the novel(s). Who is most powerful in the novel(s)? What is the source of this power? How durable is the power? What do the power relations in the novel(s) reveal about historical/cultural/environmental issues from either today or the period when the novel was written?

IV: Compare and contrast each novel's depiction of the **character of humanity**: how do these similarities and differences reflect (the author's; society's, etc.) attitudes nature of humanity and humanity in society? What do these depictions reveal about historical/cultural/environmental issues from either today or the period when the novel was written?

Helpful Advice:

Your essay should include a clearly stated thesis that your analysis supports. In your introductory paragraph, tell us what you are going to write about (topic and focus) and what your main point is going to be (thesis). In the body of the paper, stay away from plot summary; instead, foreground your ideas or analytical points via strong topic sentences and textual evidence.

Don't forget the "so what?" element of the paper. Why is your argument and analysis important (whether in the context of the text or in relationship to the contemporary world)?

Grading will be based on the following

20% Thesis statement: depth, clarity, and validity

10% Topic sentences and transitions/**Paragraph structure**

20% Analytical depth: close reading, critical thinking, without too much plot summary

30% Organization/execution of argument/knowledge of text: analysis shows clarity, logic, and understanding

10% Quotations: appropriate, contribute to the argument

10% Professionalism: spacing, punctuation, page numbers, title, indentations, tone

DRAFT

Students who fully participate in the draft workshop will receive a .5 letter grade markup on their final paper. Full participation means (1) arriving with a hard copy of a reasonably complete draft of your paper (at least 2 1/2 pages) and (2) reading and providing feedback to your classmates.