

## **Example Assignment English 1010**

### **Assignment**

This final major paper builds on your summaries of literature by asking you to create an example argument (using principles of definition as well) about that literature. To write this paper, you should choose a statement on literature from the handout “Theme Statements.” (If you would like, you can also choose a statement from the handout “Perspectives on the Value of Literature.” Both handouts are linked on the course webpage.

You should also choose one or more of the literary works we read; choose literary works that are examples of your statement in some way. The focus of your paper should be *showing in what ways one or more of the literary works are examples of the general statement about literature.*

### **Formal Requirements**

- A logical, well-organized paper
- 3-4 pages long (double-spaced, Times-New Roman, 12 pt.)
- MLA format, including works cited page

### **Hints**

- To organize this paper logically, you must quote and summarize your general statement early in your paper. The two most likely places are in the background area of the introduction or in the first paragraph.
- Early in the planning process, you should analyze your general statement. By this, I mean break it into parts. These parts can become the basis for your separate paragraphs.
- Because your audience will have read all of the literary works, avoid extensive plot summary. Rather, refer to specific parts of the literary works (use quotes) that are examples of your general statement.
- As you use quotes, be sure to use in-text citations and produce a works cited page for your paper. We will cover how to do this in class.
- It may be possible to find a literary work that is a perfect example of your general statement. However, it is more likely that some aspects of the literature will match the statement and others will not. Examining both aspects will both complicate and lengthen your argument.
- Another organizational strategy you could choose is to compare and contrast the ways two works of literature match your general statement. This type of paper will still have an example element, but it would be a blended approach.
- If you use more than one literary work in your paper, you may use works we did not read in class. If you plan to do so, clear it with me. However, at least one of the works you use must be from the class reading.
- You may want to use outside commentaries on your literary works or look up contextual information on your authors. This is not required, but if you do, be sure to document your sources. We will talk about documentation in class.
- As always, begin early.

### **Schedule**

M, Nov 22

W, Dec 1

F, M, Dec 3-6

M, Dec 13

**Proposal** (tell me what statement and literary work[s] you will use)

**Draft of paper due** (Bring 3 hard copies)

**Workshops**

**Final portfolio due**