Dear English 12 Honors Students:

The time has come for you to add the analysis of your novel/long piece to the rest of the work you have done this semester. The final, full, edited version of your thesis paper will be due Friday, Dec. 7th.

**Your final checkpoint is to turn it at least 8 pages of your final paper by Wed, Nov. 28th.**

***Note: you don’t have to stop at eight! The more you complete as we return from the break, the more on which I will be able to give you feedback.***

Please make sure your essay (even the draft) meets the following requirements:

* Include a cover page with a title, subtitle, your name, a prompt and class information
*(teacher name, due date, period, “English 12 honors”, etc.)*
* Introduce the names of the pieces you will be analyzing in the first paragraph of your essay
* Place a strong thesis/main argument at the end of your first paragraph (it may or may not be two sentences long in order to include all important points of analysis)
* Provide any relevant background information and/or analysis necessary for your audience to understand the critical approach that you will be using (ie: the research component). Have NO MORE than 2 pages of this relevant background information at the start of the paper; by page 3, you should be getting into literary analysis, too.
* Be sure that all evidence is cited (MLA style) using author, title and page numbers (if applicable).
* Add a works cited page that lists the versions of the works (poems, play, novel, etc.) that you used, as well as any research sources you used

In writing your final 10-12 page paper, you should look to include the following where/when possible…

* Valid connections made between the short and long pieces, whether by common themes, subject matter, or writing style.
* Comparison of how the author writes similarly or differently depending on the genre they are writing.
* Relevant analysis of how these particular works reflect issues that align with your specific critical approach, be it: biographical, sociological, psychological, historical, formalist, or other.

Suggestions:

* Include research to help back up these assumptions! Look into: how have literary critics/historians made these connections.
* Use your prompt strategically. You don’t need to talk about everything this author has done; only discuss what you WANT to discuss. This mindset may help you to identify your focal points of analysis as you use statements/questions to inspire your essay.
* If writing a 10-12 page paper seems daunting, think about just writing one more 4-5 page paper on your long piece alone. That way, you can focus on just analyzing the long piece without trying to draw comparisons to the short piece/the research at the same time. If you write the long piece essay as a separate thought, you can then combine it with the other two essays and just add supplemental evidence to make connections.
* Weave the different papers together in a way that is meaningful. Mindful organization is what makes all of the difference in the assignment; the students who stand out in first semester are the ones who can do this most seamlessly and creatively. Is it tough? Yes! But just because the information came in three different chunks doesn’t mean it has to stay separated.
* Include all of the elements you would normally include in an essay: evidence, commentary, topic sentences, proper grammar and spelling (ESPECIALLY as Honors students)

A draft of the first 8 pages of your work should be presented to me via TurnItIn.com by Wednesday, 11/28 before midnight. I will be giving you feedback during POL prep week that you will be able to use for your final paper.

Email me with any further questions, clarifications, wonderings, confusions, crises, thanksgiving leftovers recipes, holiday-related memes, etc.

Happy Writing!

—Stoll