ELA Virtual Learning

Composition and Reading 2: Choosing a Literary Analysis Topic (1 of 2)

April 28, 2020

Composition and Reading II
Lesson: April 28, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:
Students will choose a story to analyze and an approach to criticism to write a detailed literary analysis paper.

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Answer the following questions in your notebook.
Starting Question(s):
1. Which mode of criticism has been most accessible to you?
2. As you were reading any of the articles on critical approaches to literature (psychoanalysis, Marxism, feminism, etc.) were you reminded of any short stories or novels that you have read in the past?
3. Ultimately, what do you have to gain from reading a piece analytically?

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Learn:

In subsequent lessons, we will go through the writing process with the final goal of writing a critical analysis paper of a short story of your choice. I've got some options available, all of them good! We will employ all elements of the writing process in order to complete this assignment. You will be choosing a single story and a single critical approach that we have learned about so far, forming a thesis that offers an interpretation that will lead to a deeper understanding of the piece, and then supporting that thesis by placing it within a specific social or historical context using outside sources. It sounds like a lot, but like I said, we will be taking this one step at a time.

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Practice:

I would like you to read this presentation on the process of writing a literary analysis paper. On a separate sheet of paper, I would like you to make a "checklist" over everything that you need to include in order to create an effective literary analysis paper. This may help you in the future!

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Practice *EXAMPLE*:

__Choose story
__Determine approach
__Write thesis
__Find examples to support my thesis
  __Highlight important passages
__Cite expert opinion
  __use academic databases to find credible secondary sources
__Place the text within context (social, historical or religious)
__Reread for grammatical or spelling errors
__conclude and submit

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Wrap-Up:

Today was a simple introduction to literary analysis. This is something that we will be working on for a while, so as we move into choosing topics tomorrow, I would like you to consider a favorite genre or author. This paper will be much easier if you are writing about something that you like.