ENG 3407: Gothic Literature and Visual Culture, D618

Prof. Garcia

Essay 2

**Due date:** 11/15/16

**Length**: 1000 words, minimum

**Format**: MLA format (double spaced, one inch margins, Times New Roman font, including an original title and a header that provides your name, instructor name, class title, and due date)

**Assignment**

In class we have discussed the various topics/issues found in Robert Louis Stevenson’s *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. For this essay, you will choose a topic/issue that interests you and make an arguable claim about the theme. (Remember that a theme is a generalization about the meaning of the story. In other words, it is the point or insight we gain about a topic/issue after reading a work of literature. And remember that a theme must hold true for all the details of the narrative.) Your essay should use textual evidence and analysis to support your thesis.

In order to write your essay, you should:

* Identify and briefly describe the topic/issue you are addressing and say how it appears in *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
* Include an arguable thesis that makes a claim about theme in the text. What is the author or text saying about this issue?
* Include textual evidence and analysis that explains the significance of the evidence to support your claim.
* Properly quote, paraphrase, and cite all materials you refer to in the essay, including in-text citations and a works cited page.
* In your conclusion, connect your theme in *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* to the gothic genre and compare and contrast the theme with other gothic texts we have read this semester.

**Note:** I encourage you to use scholarly secondary sources to help you develop your argument and support your claims. Be sure to carefully quote and cite these as well. Use the Ursula K Schwerin Library Database to search for scholarly articles and books. I like to use Jstor, Project Muse, Academic Search Complete, and the MLA International Bibliography for scholarly research. If you have trouble with this, ask one of the reference librarians for assistance. They are happy to help you!

**Things to keep in mind:** When giving textual evidence to support your answer, you should either quote or paraphrase and summarize the specific moment in the novel. But **be very careful** not to summarize the whole story. You should only summarize the small focused moment that you need and then quickly move to your explanation of the moment’s significance and your analysis. Make sure to carefully and fully explain your evidence. Before you begin writing, be sure you take a significant amount of time to develop a thesis statement and plan your response.

**Finally**: Please remember that you should proofread, spellcheck, and staple your essay.

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| Quote/paraphrase a moment in the text. | What does this moment show/prove about the topic/issue you are writing about? | Why and how does this moment prove what you say it does? |
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1. Review your chart and free write about the following questions. What do these moments have in common? What do your ideas about these moments have in common?
2. Explain what the novel is saying/showing about your topic/issue. This is your thesis.

Thesis Checklist (From the UNC-Chapel Hill Writing Center):

* **Do I answer the question?** Re-reading the question prompt after constructing a working thesis can help you fix an argument that misses the focus of the question.
* **Have I taken a position that others might challenge or oppose?** If your thesis simply states facts that no one would, or even could, disagree with, it’s possible that you are simply providing a summary, rather than making an argument.
* **Is my thesis statement specific enough?** Thesis statements that are too vague often do not have a strong argument. If your thesis contains words like “good” or “successful,” see if you could be more specific: *why* is something “good”; *what specifically* makes something “successful”?
* **Does my essay support my thesis specifically and without wandering?** If your thesis and the body of your essay do not seem to go together, one of them has to change. It’s okay to change your working thesis to reflect things you have figured out in the course of writing your paper. Remember, always reassess and revise your writing as necessary.
* **Does my thesis pass the “how and why?” test?** If a reader’s first response is “how?” or “why?” your thesis may be too open-ended and lack guidance for the reader. See what you can add to give the reader a better take on your position right from the beginning.

**Further Questions for Theme Analysis:**

1. What do the characters *do* that helps illustrate your idea?
2. What do the characters *say* that helps to illustrate your idea?
3. What *events* take place in the work that help to illustrate your idea?
4. Are there any recurrent images or clusters of images? Do these images support the idea or theme that you find in the work?
5. What does the narrator say that helps to illustrate your idea?