ENG1121, D492

Response paper 3 – “Beach” explanatory synthesis

Due: Mar 9 (W)

The narrator of Roberto Bolaño’s “Beach” takes readers through meandering moments that include a trip to a methadone clinic and hours spent people-watching at a beach. Like many stories told in first-person, “Beach” feels intimate, giving readers the impression that they are experiencing life alongside of the narrator.\*

In two short *New York Times* pieces, we hear both about and from Bolaño: Larry Rohter’s piece focuses on the veracity of Bolaño’s legend, including the rumor that Bolaño had a heroin habit, whereas the interview Blake Wilson cites works to reveal a bit about Bolaño’s sense of humor.

For this response paper, you are being asked to compose an explanatory synthesis of “Beach.” Specifically, please discuss how the realities of heroin use are depicted in Roberto Bolaño’s “Beach.”

Your synthesis must be at least 1 page but no more than 2 pages. It is likely that you will have to do research beyond the pieces provided in an effort to identify the effects heroin has on users’ bodies and minds. In your response you should cite “Beach” as well as at least one other source (your own research, one/or/both of the *New York Times* pieces provided, etc.). You will need to submit a Works Cited page along with your response paper.

During the course of your work, it is strongly suggested that you review pages 96-129 of our textbook, to ensure that you understand the components of an explanatory synthesis, as well and the recommended steps you can use to build out such a thesis.

\* It may be worth noting that “Beach” was initially released in *Entre Paréntesis*, which was a 2005 collection of essays, articles, and speeches; the English translation, *Between Parenthesis,* was later published in 2011.