**ENG 2001 (D530)– Paper #3: Comparing Snapshots Within a Single Work**

Basic Information:

11/28: Paper assigned today

12/12: Last day to show me optional drafts of the paper.

12/19: Paper due by the beginning of class, on OpenLab and in physical form. Points will be deducted for careless formatting or submitting to the wrong dropbox. Barring a request for extension, **late papers will automatically receive a zero.**

Motivating Question:

In **1200-1400 words,** compare **two snapshots from within a single work** (**either**“At the Mountains of Madness” **or** *Things Fall Apart.* **DO NOT compare the two novels.**) Your analysis should **compare and contrast** the interplay of Elements within each of those snapshots, in order to help the reader understand the author’s approach to broader themes or questions.

Your papershould...

**a)** feature a thesis that balances attention to *similarity* between the snapshots with attention to *difference* between them;

**b)** close read one snapshot, and then the other, taking care to highlight the important similarities and differences between them;

**c)** “zoom out,” and explain **how** your comparing + contrasting these scenes **provides a new way to understand** the novel’s themes or broader guiding questions. Be clear if your analysis produces a conclusion that defies initial expectations, or contradicts shallow/superficial understandings of the work in question.

Possible elements to discuss: Point of View, Setting, Character, Style, Symbolism, Plotting

When picking snapshots for analysis, refer to our notes in class, your classmates’ blog entries, and your own notes. **You should pick scenes or passages that obviously call out for comparison.** Perhaps both of them take place in the same setting, but feature different characters; perhaps both of them raise the question of bias and objectivity with respect to Point of View; or perhaps the two scenes represent conflicting attitudes/approaches to the same overarching theme.

When read side by side, the snapshots should also offer insight into an overarching guiding question or theme. Perhaps your comparison shows us an unexpected or surprising side of the narrative you are analyzing, an answer to a guiding question that might otherwise seem counterintuitive. If this is so, make sure to highlight this fact.

Your essay will be graded in terms of **Three** major areas:

1. **Content.**

-**directly address ALL aspects of the prompt**

-assert a **clear argument (thesis)** early, and then work logically to **develop and support** that argument

-use at least 6 **quotations**.

-show fluency in the **elements of fiction**, recognizing that they are not interchangeable(i.e., “plot,” “character” and “setting” all mean different things!)

-build on classroom discussion about the novel, but make **original interpretive claims**

-privilege interpretation over simply giving information

2. **Organization.**

-closely follow the 3-part structure of **introducing the thesis, close reading your snapshots,** and then **explaining how that passage sheds light on the story as a whole**

-guide the reader, from presenting information about your passage, to *interpreting* the significance of that information, to explaining how your interpretation sheds light on the novel’s broader themes [WHICH MIGHT RELATE TO REAL WORLD ISSUES].

3. **Formatting/Mechanics.** Proofreading, editing, and proper formatting (see below).

The best papers will **avoid…**

-too much summary

-too much direct quoting (expecting quotes to “speak for themselves”)

-too much personal experience (e.g. “This story made me sad/excited/confused”)

-too much reliance ONLY on what we talked about in class (re-stating class discussion)

-tangents that ignore the motivating question

Remember to seek out any assistance you need: use the resources on campus or visit my office hours if you have questions about your progress or goals for this assignment. I’m happy to read the first 2 pages of your draft by email, if you a) email me from your City Tech account, b) ask a *specific* question (not “Can you read this?”), and c) ask me by 12/12.

I’m also happy to discuss your draft during office hours - again, if you come to me by 12/12, and if you have a specific question you want me to answer.

Academic Integrity:

Please remember the College’s policy on academic integrity (refer to the course syllabus or your student handbook). **Acts of plagiarism will result in a zero (0) for this assignment, and may result in further penalty.**  I can and will use plagiarism checking software.

**Format.** Your essay must...

1) be submitted online **in a Word .doc format**,

2) include an italicized title (NOT “Fiction Essay”!)

3) have a header with your surname and page number on the top right corner of each page,

4) have your *name*, *assignment name* (i.e. Introduction to Fiction Paper 1), *course number,* *instructor name*, and *due date* on the top left corner of the first page.