Pitch Paper \* Prof. Miller \* English 2002 \* Spring, 2019

**Due: Wednesday, May 15th**

* Printed copy due in class\*
* Late papers will not be accepted
* Paper should be about four pages (a little shorter or a little longer is fine)
* Use MLA formatting
* Include a Works Cited page with play listed along with the sources you used for the “design” component.
* **IMPORTANT:** If any section of your paper is plagiarized (i.e. if you include writing that is not your own (aside from the direct quotes from the play), the paper will receive an automatic zero. Please note: if you receive help with grammar or word choice via tutoring or from a peer – that is not plagiarizing! I am talking about copying (or cutting and pasting) sections from websites, articles, study guides etc. and claiming that these words are your own. If you need help with the paper, don’t panic: reach out to me!

Note: We will have a writing workshop to work on this paper on Wednesday, May 8th. Please bring your notes, laptops etc.

**The Assignment:**

Think about the four plays we have completed thus far: *The Rising of the Moon, Othello, ‘Art,’ and Disgraced*. Choose the play you think would be most appropriate, compelling, and possibly even life-affecting for your fellow City Tech students. Then write a “pitch” (we will review this term) in the form of a four-page letter to the artistic director (we will review this term as well) of Voorhees Theater.

**Address the letter to:**

Prof. John McCullough

Artistic Director

Voorhees Theater

New York City College of Technology

186 Jay Street

Brooklyn, NY 11201

\*For the “design” component of the paper, submit your materials electronically (see the “concluding paragraph” section).

The pitch letter must include the following:

In the introductory paragraph…

* Ground the reader by providing a brief synopsis (2-3 sentences) of the play’s plot.
* Give a clear thesis that follows the equation (THESIS = topic + comment on the topic).
* The topic is simply that you think Voorhees should produce your chosen play. The comment on the topic is WHY you think it should be produced at City Tech, in other words WHY would fellow students benefit from watching this play.

In the main body of the letter…

* Discuss two or three scenes in the play that give strong support to your thesis. Use specific examples from the play, along with direct quotes, to illustrate your ideas. Be sure to provide context for the quotes: introduce the quote by telling the reader who is speaking etc.
* Include a review from at least one live theatrical production (not a book or movie review) that backs up your argument that this play is important to put on for the students of City Tech.

In the concluding paragraph…

* Convince the reader that you are passionate about this project, and provide an idea of the design for the production you have planned. Tell your reader that you are sending either images or audio clips related to the design of the play via email (which you will do by sending them to me).
* In this paragraph, explain why you have chosen these images or clips—connect them to your ideas and explain why they will help bring the play alive. For this part of the assignment, choose one of the suggestions from the list below. (You may also suggest another idea to me, and if it meets the criteria, I will approve it.)
* Find at least **three** images that you might give to a **set** designer. These images might be practical (for example, pictures of actual furniture or a drawing of a room that you think best represents the set), or your images may be conceptual (colors, textures, etc. that you think represent the “feeling” of the place where the play takes place). Note: If you choose this option for *‘Art,’* one of your images must address the painting.

**or**

* Find **three** images for the **costumes.** Follow the directions above. Please *do not* choose this option for *‘Art.’*

**or**

* Find **three** sound or music clips to give to a **sound** designer: these might be clips of songs that are played between scenes or sound effects that may occur during the scenes.

**or**

* Cast the main characters of the play by submitting “headshots” of the actors/actresses. (If you choose *Othello,* please *do not* cast the actors/actresses from the film.
* End the pitch by adding one more convincing reason as to why this play is the one that City Tech students need to see.