Prof. Gold

ENG 2420: Science Fiction

Spring 2014

First Essay Assignment

Paper Length: 3-4 Pages

Due Date: March 20, 2014

This assignment has been designed to help you gain experience in writing an essay that analyzes and compares the ways that two science fiction novels discuss issues related to the physical, social, material, and philosophical differences between humans and machines.

**Learning Goals:**

* Perform close readings of texts, paying careful attention to major themes and specific uses of figurative language
* Analyze formal and stylistics properties of multiple texts;
* Compare and contrast the treatment of similar motifs and themes in multiple works;
* Center each paragraph around a specific subject;
* Start each paragraph with a topic sentence;
* Use transition statements to move the reader from topic to topic;
* Quote from and respond to our assigned readings;
* Cite quotations parenthetically and in a Works Cited list according to MLA format;
* Write with clear, grammatically correct prose.

**Assignment:**

Write a 3-4 page paper that focuses on a repeated theme or type of moment in *Caves of Steel* and *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* Discuss the larger meanings of those repeated elements and make an argument about what they suggest about what the novel has to say about the lines between humans and machines. Use evidence from the text to support your points.

Your essay should be structured as a unified essay. It should have an overall argument that is summarized in a thesis statement, and each paragraph should be centered around a single topic. Incorporate quotations into your work. Use *They Say/I Say* to help you incorporate perspectives from other writers into your work.

At some point in your paper, you should discuss how your ideas differ from those presented in one of the two critical articles we are reading for the 3/13/14 class.

Requirements:

* Your essay must have an original title that captures the argument of your paper in an engaging, creative way.
* The essay must be typed in 12pt Times New Roman font with 1” borders on every page.
* Should you use additional sources, your essay must include a list of Works Cited in accordance with MLA style.