

English 101  
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Final Paper

Now, if you've been paying attention this quarter, you do not need to panic. Breathe slowly for a minute and just read. You have all the skills, tools, and resources that you need to write this paper. You know how to write up to a five page paper. It's really very easy – you know how many paragraphs and how long they can and should be to get it done. Five pages is the demarcation line. Anything over that, we use a different format. Ready? Here we go . . .

Intro Paragraph

Same information applies:

Compound/Complex Leader, Introduce your subject, Thesis, make it flow,  $\frac{1}{2}$  -  $\frac{3}{4}$  pg.

1<sup>st</sup> Subchapter

A mini paper on windows. Two pages, two paragraphs, you can have 2 or 3 minors, and use a transition rather than a conclusion.

2<sup>nd</sup> Subchapter

A mini paper on microscopes. Two pages, two paragraphs, you can have 2 or 3 minors, and use a transition rather than a conclusion.

3<sup>rd</sup> Subchapter

A mini paper on lenses. Two pages, two paragraphs, you can have 2 or 3 minors, and use a transition rather than a conclusion.

Conclusion

Same information applies: lightly restate your thesis, and tie it back together again,  $\frac{1}{2}$  -  $\frac{3}{4}$  pg.

## **Windows Microscopes, and Lenses.**

Windows: Characters and what they represent;

Microscopes: Setting and objects and what they represent;

Lenses: The values that the movie is endorsing/promoting;

## **Semiotics: The Study of Signs**

The main idea is that everything is a sign. A sign is a character (window), object (microscope), or idea (lense) that refers to something besides itself. In real life we call that *semiotic situations*. With art (literature, music, paintings, pictures, ect.) we call that *symbols*.

A symbol is usually a tangible object that is interpreted beyond the literal or dictionary's definition. It (whatever that "it" is) *means something else*. This is used – especially in movies -- to tell the audience information without a narrator. A movie narrator is either a disembodied voice speaking (Twilight) or words flowing over the screen (Star Wars). We gather information that we need to understand the story/plot by visual images.

In a Western, the good guy always wears a \_\_\_\_\_ hat;

In a Western, the bad guy always wears a \_\_\_\_\_ hat;

In a Western, the guy who switches sides/is important to the climax wears a \_\_\_\_\_ hat.

Sometimes, a symbol is the setting. The location tells us information that we need to understand the story/plot. In a big city, you are one of many. You can get lost in a crowd. You are isolated and alone. This is similar to when you walk to your classes. Is your head down? Do you talk to the people around you?

And there isn't that many symbols to begin with, so the answer – *what does it mean* – can be the same even though the object or setting is different. Love/Passion can be represented by a red rose, a wedding on the beach, a fight between two men over a girl, ect.

Characters are also used as symbols. At its most basic level, the two primary characters are as follows: the protagonist (the good guy) and the antagonist (the bad guy). And they symbolize what you would think they would: good and evil. What is the protagonist teaching us? Why is he/she a good guy? What is the antagonist teaching us? Why is he/she a bad guy? Why does someone have to die?

Finding the values of a movie is just as easy. There are some common themes: love, freedom, independence, fighting for a cause, and fighting to right a wrong. Basically, what the introduction of Chapter 5 discusses.

### **In a Nut Shell**

You will write an eight (8) page paper analyzing one of the four movie choices that I gave you. Yes, everything that you learned – leader, thesis, topic sentences, minors, 1 thought, transitions, parenthetical citations and everything else – still applies. Yes, you will have to do some research – you will have to prove what you say. This may mean that you research the life and times presented in the movie, research the movie itself – all of these have been critically analyzed by others before you, research the writer -- he/she had an opinion on what he/she wanted to convey, and identify what the symbols mean.

AUPOD the following: “I think”, “I believe”, or “in my opinion”. If you write it, you think it, believe it, and it is your opinion so those phrases are redundant and annoy your instructors. If you write “in conclusion” remember I have a ready supply of wet noodles and I will take you out back and beat you with them until you are sticky.

You now have a primary title – that’s the centered paper title on the front page and secondary titles. Before you begin a subchapter, you need to identify it. You do this by giving me a title. The same rules apply: must be three words or longer, you know what you can and cannot cap, and creativity is a plus. Now here’s what is different: **Bold this and left justify it.** Do not change the spacing – your essay is still double spaced.

You have 2 ½ weeks to write this essay. You can email me your final **BEFORE** 9 am – remember to attach it, or you can drop it off during the final. To remind you, my office is in RLC 108. You must turn in a final (and on time) if you want to pass this class. That about covers it. If you have questions, I’ll be here to help you. Good luck! ☺