Response Paper #20
About Hansberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun* and Sanchez-Scott’s “The Cuban Swimmer”
Using One Literary Criticism

Value: 10 points

Length: about 500 words (Think of the assignment as a take-home version of your in-class response papers. Try to stick to what you can write in 30 minutes.)

Format & Deadline: Submit your typed, double-spaced, MLA-formatted paper electronically to Turnitin (as a Single File Upload) by 11:30 pm on the due date.

Note: *Turnitin* will allow you to submit a paper after the deadline but will mark it as late, and it will receive half credit as a result, so please don’t wait until the last minute and risk having to use your late pass or receive half credit. (Keep in mind that your clock may not match *Turnitin*’s, and for the purposes of submitting assignments for this class, *Turnitin*’s clock is considered correct.)

Directions: Choose one of the prompts below.

PROMPTS:
1. (New Criticism): Analyze the symbolism in each of these texts: Hansberry’s use of the plant and/or the play’s title and Sanchez Scott’s use of the fish, water. What character or characters in each text are associated with these symbols? Why? For what purpose?

2. (Reader Response Criticism): With what character do you sympathize and/or identify most in each text? Why? Does your response conform to or contradict the text’s overall argument or purpose? With what character are you supposed to sympathize and/or identify most in each text? How and why does the text manipulate your response to this character?


4. (Gender Criticism): Choose A or B:
   A. Analyze and compare/contrast one or more characters in each text who conform or strive to conform to traditional gender roles dictated by society. How do their awareness of the gender expectations and their self-assessment based on their ability or failure to fulfill these expectations motivate their actions and decisions? With what outcome and what response from the society (other characters) reflected in the text? Why and so what?
   B. Analyze and compare/contrast one or more characters in each text who challenge the traditional gender roles dictated by society. Analyze how and why they challenge these gender roles. With what outcome and what response from the society (other characters) reflected in the text? Why and so what?

5. (Marxist Criticism): Analyze how the drive for and dream of success serves as a form of False Consciousness in each text to maintain the status quo. How does it manipulate the family’s perception and treatment of its members? What is the role of and outcome for the individual worker? How does it keep each working class family “down?” Based on this interpretation, discuss the ending/outcome of each text. Can these endings really be considered happy? Are the families really better off? Explain.
6. (Multicultural Criticism): Analyze how the Youngers as African Americans and the Suárezes as Cuban Americans (immigrants) are subjected to Othering. Consider instances of Othering demonstrated by characters from the dominant (white American/human) culture in the plays and novella and/or the effects of Othering on the Youngers’ and Suárezes’ and Gregor’s self-perception as exemplified in their attitudes/beliefs, choices, and actions.

**General Tips and Reminders:**

Name the literary criticism when you first introduce it (in you intro) and in the assignment line of your heading. Do NOT write: “This paper will apply . . . .” If you want to see an example, take a look at the introductory paragraphs of the sample papers at the end of each Literary Criticism Reference.

Quote (paraphrase, summarize), and cite the text correctly, using proper MLA parenthetical in-text citation. As long as you’re using the assigned textbooks/versions of the texts, you do not need a Works Cited page. Do NOT use outside sources.