Response Paper 1—Plot, Character, and Setting

Value: 50 points

Format: MLA style; no works cited page necessary

Length: 750 words

Due Date: paper must be submitted to turnitin no later than 11:55 PM on 9/14/15 (M/W); 9/15/15 (T/TH).

Directions: Select a story and a category; respond to the questions or tasks in several paragraphs. Grammar and spelling count!

“The Artificial N----r”

Character/POV: briefly analyze the grandfather’s character. Is he a flat or round character? Does O’Connor present a credible profile of a racist? Identify and analyze the personality traits that support your answer.

OR

Plot: trace the action of the story. Where does the exposition occur? Where does the tension/conflict/rising action begin? Where does the crisis occur? The climax? The falling action or resolution? Is the ending satisfying? Why, why not?

“Battle Royal”

Setting: describe the physical setting—sights, sounds, smells—of the ballroom, using the text to support your description. What is your emotional reaction to this setting? Explain in some detail.

OR

Character: Ellison is never referred to by name; however, we have full access to his thoughts. Analyze his psychological state of mind at the beginning of the story. Who is he at the beginning of the story? How has it changed by the end of the story?
“This is What It Means To Say, Phoenix Arizona”

Character: Briefly analyze the character of Victor or Thomas Builds the Fire. What is his motivation? Support your answers with examples from the text. How do you explain the low key ending? What does it say about the character, about life?

OR

Plot: While the overall plot is linear, the flashbacks aren’t. Discuss the importance of the flashbacks. What do they add to the reader’s understanding of the story?

AND

Everyone must respond to this final question: Based on your reading and writing for this unit of study, what have you learned about the structure—plot, setting, character, or theme—of a short story? What is the clearest point? What is still unclear?
Grading Rubric for Response Paper 1

(A) 6 paper (48-50 points) will

- Provide a clear purpose and strong introduction that contextualizes the assignment
- Express responses directly and honestly
- Focus on the literary elements—plot, character, and setting—clearly explaining how each relates to its overall effectiveness in the work
- Use examples, quotes, paraphrase, and details from the work to support/illustrate points
- Follow MLA style
- Meet the word count
- Demonstrate mature sentence variety
- Contain some grammar and usage errors, but not so many as to distract the reader from the meaning

(A-) 6- paper (45-47 points) will

- Perform all of the above tasks although may contain a higher incident of errors in grammar, MLA style, and word count than the 6 paper

(B+ to B-) 5+ to 5- paper (40-43 points) will

- Contain a clear purpose and effective introduction that contextualizes the assignment
- Will identify and evaluate the elements described in a 6 paper but may not be as fully developed as the 6
- Demonstrate mature sentence variety
- Will contain a higher incident of flaws in grammar, MLA style, and word count than the 6-paper

(C+ to C-) 4 paper (35-39 points) will

- Contain an adequate introduction but may fail to contextualize the assignment
- Will identify and evaluate some of the elements but may fail to fully develop the response and may be more inclined to generalities rather than specifics
- Will contain a higher incident of flaws in grammar MLA style, and word count than the 5 paper
(D) 3 paper (30-34 points) will acknowledge the requirements of the reading response assignment but will be weakened by the following errors:

- Omit a clear purpose, introduction, and/or conclusion
- Be too general or too specific
- Contain unimportant or irrelevant points
- Have flaws in organization/development also resulting in low word count
- Contain flaws in grammar and usage that hinder communication
- Contain multiple MLA style errors