The Many Deaths of Danny Rosales

Value: final draft—150 points; 10 points per peer review; 20 points MLA style, formatting and documentation. (For this assignment, you don’t need a works cited page.)

Length: 1000-1500 words, typed using MLA style and submitted to turnitin.com

Due Dates: see assignment sheet

Directions: Plan and write an essay in response to one of the questions below:

Character (1192-1198)

Analyze the character of Danny, Fred, or Grace. Be sure to consider the following in your analysis:

- Is the character the protagonist (principal character e.g., hero) or the antagonist (major character who is in conflict with the protagonist)? Both?
- How is the character described? Is his/her physical appearance important?
- What are his/her most noticeable personality traits?
- What are his/her strengths and weaknesses?
- What do you know about the character’s background, especially details revealed in the flashbacks?
- Is the character round or flat, dynamic or static?
- What is the character’s motivation? That is, what are the reasons behind his/her behavior? What does the character want?

Remember we learn about major characters by what they say, do, and from what is said or implied about them by other characters.
Theme (1512-1515)

Argue for or against this statement:

In his interview, Morton claims that the play is not a “simple ‘brown vs. white’ issue”; he states that “the real life Deputy was instrumental in bringing the Sheriff to justice—which is what the play is really about.” Why would a play written only about race weaken the impact on the audience? Was Justice served in this first trial? Why or Why not?

Things to Consider:

- Did the change of venue for where the case would be tried help or hurt the prosecution? The defense?
- If a jury is to decide a case based solely on evidence—and not on intuition—was their decision clearly wrong?
- Does the judge prejudice the case in Fred Hall’s favor by some of his rulings?
- What tact is the defense attorney Pearl taking to defend Hall? Does he attempt to prejudice the jury against the dead man Danny Rosales?
- Chicano Theatre is about identifying urgent political and social issues, then, advocating for change; does this play fit the role?
- How do we peel the layers of this case to get to the truth? For that matter, what is truth?
- Can a case be made, not to justify, but to explain Fred Hall’s irrational and deadly actions?
Scoring Guide

MLA style—strong, adequate, weak

Essays with a score of 90-100 contain the following elements:

- Clear purpose with a strong introduction, including a summary of the play
- Clearly stated thesis
- Logical development and organization
- Textual support, a judicious sense of evidence
- Thoughtful and keen insights into the play
- Style and tone appropriate to the assignment
- Mature analysis that argue issues and ideas appropriate to the topic
- Minor grammar and usage errors

Essays with a score of 80-89 contain the following:

- Most of the elements of an A paper
- Although
  - May lack organizational strength of the A paper
  - May contain surface errors—spelling, verb tense, word choice, punctuation—although not so faulty as to affect the reader’s understanding
  - May lack complete textual support—fewer details

Essays with a score of 70-79 contain the following:

- All elements of a B paper although those elements may be inadequately developed, tending toward overgeneralization or obvious content
  - And
    - Contain multiple surface errors that may affect the reader’s understanding
    - May lack complete textual support

Essays with a score of 60-69 may omit one or more of the following:

- Introduction
- Thesis statement
- Textual support
- Thorough understanding of the play
- In-depth analysis that argue issues and ideas appropriate to the topic
  - And may contain the following
    - Underdevelopment of analysis
    - Confusing or wordy syntax
    - Severe and multiple surface errors—grammar, punctuation, spelling—that hinder communication