

Beowulf Unit

Writing Assignment

Task: Choose 1 of the following options for your first writing assignment. This essay will be research-based and ultimately determine what makes a hero or villain. You will have significant class time to complete your essay with guidelines and helpful resources given to you before submitting the final product on November 14th (A Day) or November 15th (B day).

Option #1: This writing assignment is an extension of our study on the epic hero from *Beowulf*. The archetypal pattern of a hero is an imperfect person who displays fierce determination, courage, and resolve in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges. The hero is the person who rises to the occasion—one who others look up to as a figure of hope that the impossible is actually possible to attain. For your essay, you will choose a modern-day hero to research. Your thesis should prove that the person you chose merits the distinction of being regarded as a hero. You must research the life of your chosen person and show how this person has overcome obstacles and learned lessons as a result of the challenges they have had to face. Thus, you must show in what ways this person's life parallels the typical pattern of the hero. *You must ask yourself: what qualities make this person a hero? What challenges has this person faced? What contributions has this person made to the world? What lessons has this person learned?*

Option #2: This option will explore the idea of what creates a villain in society's eyes. Think of how we view Grendel as a reader. Some of us feel bad for him because of his background, while others believe he is pure evil. Your assignment is to select a well-known real-life villain. This person may be alive or dead. Begin researching this person's past, present, and future (if applicable). Your thesis should prove whether this person is a true villain or if society has given them a "bad name." Consider the following questions: *Was this person born into an evil life or did specific circumstances turn their life in the wrong direction? What criteria distinguishes this person as a villain? Has this person faced any life challenges? Has this person committed any crimes and are they forgivable? Does this person regret any life choices?*

Required criteria for your essay:

- ❖ Must be at least 2-3 pages in length
- ❖ MLA format- Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double-spaced
- ❖ Use at least 3 sources, 1 from a database
- ❖ Include 3 properly formatted quotes with in-text citations
- ❖ Include a Works Cited with proper MLA format
- ❖ MUST BE PRINTED AND STAPLED ON DATE DUE

Essay Schedule & Due Dates:

Day (A – B)	Assignment	Homework	Point Value
10/25 – 10/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Choose your hero/villain- must be approved before research begins ○ Begin researching 3 articles. 1 article must be from database 	Have 3 articles bookmarked for next class	none
10/27 – 10/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete article organizers for each article being used ○ Create MLA citations and save to a document (pages/google docs) 	Finish 3 article organizers & MLA citations	30 points (10 per article)
10/31 – 11/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete thesis, notes, & quotes ○ Expand to essay outline 	Finish outline	20 points
11/2 – 11/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete rough draft ○ Rough draft must include MLA format, inserted quotes, citations 	Finish rough draft- MUST BE PRINTED FOR NEXT CLASS	30 points
11/6 – 11/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Peer-edit rough drafts ○ Complete final edits 	Complete final draft	20 points for peer-edit
11/14 – 11/15	FINAL DRAFT DUE THIS CLASS – MUST BE PRINTED BEFORE ENTERING THE ROOM!!!!!!	NONE ☺	100 POINTS

TOTAL AMOUNT OF POINTS= 150

ESSAY RUBRIC:

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Introduction (Organization)	The introduction is inviting, states the main topic and previews the structure of the paper.	The introduction clearly states the main topic and previews the structure of the paper, but is not particularly inviting to the reader.	The introduction states the main topic, but does not adequately preview the structure of the paper nor is it particularly inviting to the reader.	There is no clear introduction of the main topic or structure of the paper.
Sequencing (Organization)	Details are placed in a logical order and the way they are presented effectively keeps the interest of the reader.	Details are placed in a logical order, but the way in which they are presented /introduced sometimes makes the writing less interesting.	Some details are not in a logical or expected order, and this distracts the reader.	Many details are not in a logical or expected order. There is little sense that the writing is organized.
Accuracy of Facts (Content)	All supportive facts are reported accurately.	Almost all supportive facts are reported accurately.	Most supportive facts are reported accurately.	NO facts are reported OR most are inaccurately reported.
Sources (Content)	All sources used for quotes and facts are credible and cited correctly.	All sources used for quotes and facts are credible and most are cited correctly.	Most sources used for quotes and facts are credible and cited correctly.	Many sources used for quotes and facts are less than credible (suspect) and/or are not cited correctly.
Word Choice	Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, and the choice and placement of the words seems accurate, natural and not forced.	Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, but occasionally the words are used inaccurately or seem overdone.	Writer uses words that communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety, punch or flair.	Writer uses a limited vocabulary that does not communicate strongly or capture the reader's interest. Jargon or clichés may be present and detract from the meaning.
Grammar & Spelling (Conventions)	Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content.	Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content.
Capitalization & Punctuation (Conventions)	Writer makes no errors in capitalization or punctuation, so the paper is exceptionally easy to read.	Writer makes 1 or 2 errors in capitalization or punctuation, but the paper is still easy to read.	Writer makes a few errors in capitalization and/or punctuation that catch the reader's attention and interrupt the flow.	Writer makes several errors in capitalization and/or punctuation that catch the reader's attention and greatly interrupt the flow.
Conclusion (Organization)	The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader with a feeling that they understand what the writer is "getting at."	The conclusion is recognizable and ties up almost all the loose ends.	The conclusion is recognizable, but does not tie up several loose ends.	There is no clear conclusion, the paper just ends.