

ENGLISH 102 RESEARCH ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

PROMPT

You are presenting a paper at the International Gothic Society's annual conference in Bucharest, Romania. This year's annual topic is "The Fate of the Gothic in the 20th and 21st Centuries." Because of your skills from English 102 you will be presenting on a panel that asks presenters to **synthesize** one contemporary (20th or 21st century) example of a gothic text with earlier works of gothic fiction (from the 19th century) in order to **explain the evolution of the gothic genre from the 19th to the 20th or 21st century.**

AUDIENCE AND TONE

Your audience will be your fellow presenters at the conference. Assume that they will have knowledge of many of the topics that you are discussing. Your tone should be one which is convincing and persuasive. You want to convince your fellow presenters that your interpretations of the fate of the gothic is the most valuable, interesting, and correct of those available.

DETAILS

Your essay should be written in Times New Roman 12 pt font. Please double space your essay. You may include a title page if you wish.

Your essay in its entirety should be approximately 9 pages.

YOUR ESSAY SHOULD BE ORGANIZED IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER

1. Brief ½-1 page introduction introducing overall essay topic ending with a thesis statement explaining how you see the genre of the gothic (novel) evolving from the 19th to the 21st century.
2. 1-2 page definition of the 19th century gothic novel based on our course readings (fiction and non fiction) and one outside source from the GCC library. You may also want to use brief examples of textual evidence from "The Yellow Wallpaper" and *The Picture of Dorian Gray* to enhance your definition.
3. 5 page analysis of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* which answers the following questions: What elements of the gothic genre are found in *Dracula*? Consider characters, setting and imagery, tone, and symbols. You should also pay special attention to the ways that the novel addresses issues of gender and colonialism.
4. 1 ½ -2 page synthesis of your own 20th or 21st century gothic source (example: *Alien*) and the secondary source connected to it (corresponding example: an in-depth film review of *Alien*). Here you will want to explain how your source is similar and/or different from previous 19th century incarnations of gothic fiction.
5. A brief ½ page -1 page conclusion
6. A works cited page which includes an alphabetical list of all sources you have consulted for your essay including the appropriate MLA citation information for each source.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Monday, March 17** Outside 'gothic' source or alternate paper proposal due in class.
2. **Friday, March 21** Annotation for 21st century gothic source due in class.
3. **Monday, April 21** Annotation for definition of the gothic source due in class.
4. **Monday, April 28** 1-2 page definition of 19th Century gothic fiction due in class.
5. **Monday, May 5** Discovery Draft of Research Essay due in class.
6. **Friday, May 9** Completed Annotated Bibliography (including copies of all sources!) due in class.
7. **Wednesday, May 14** Outline of your research essay due in class.
8. **Friday, May 23** Rough Draft of your research essay due in class.
9. **Wednesday, June 4** Completed Final Draft and research essay portfolio due during the final exam time for our class (7:30 AM—I will bring snacks. BYO coffee ☺)

Please remember that all rules regarding academic dishonesty apply for this assignment. All work that you turn in for this essay must be your own. Any information that you have quoted, summarized, or paraphrased must be correctly cited including the author's name, the title of the source and the appropriate page numbers. These rules apply to electronic sources you consult for your essay as well. Failure to include this information will result in the enforcement of all academic dishonesty procedures allowable by the college's rules and regulations. See your course packet pages 4-6 for all the information you should need regarding citing sources for this essay.

*Also if you have a question about how to cite a source you consult, please ask me!
Better safe than sorry.*