

## Response Paper One

### Assignment Description

For this assignment, you will need to write a **3-4 page** paper that analyzes one of our assigned texts. This essay will need to be a “close reading” of the chosen text. (This means you will use quotes and examples from the text to support your claims.) It will also need to be thesis-driven – that is, you will come up with a specific, narrow, assertive thesis (argument) about what you see going on in the work in terms of structure, theme, effect, literary technique, etc. You may wish to choose one specific element (such as “heroism” or “doomed mothers” in *Beowulf*). Try to think about something you personally find interesting or compelling: a strain of imagery, a symbol, a character... Reflect on how this element influences and forwards the work’s theme. You may wish to create connections between the assigned work and something else we have read for class, or even with an outside song, poem, or film. Do both works forward the same theme, though in different ways?

This essay will not involve the use of outside, scholarly sources. You will simply engage in a close reading of a literary text in order to explain to your reader how some literary element effectively forwards the work’s theme. Your essay should include a clear and specific thesis (argument), and the body of the essay should analyze the literary work in detail in order to demonstrate why your thesis is true. Please use this paper as an opportunity to investigate further a topic which initially interested, intrigued, or puzzled you when we discussed the works in class.

### Documentation Requirements

All quotations from the *Longman Anthology* should be documented correctly in MLA style, using the format for a “Work in an Anthology/Collected Works” (p. 424 in the *Prentice Hall Reference Guide, Second Custom Edition for Winthrop University*).

### Grading Criteria

Papers will be graded based upon the criteria in the English Department’s *Writing/English Rubric*. In addition to the *Rubric*, provided for you in class, make sure that your paper adheres to the following criteria:

#### **Content**

The paper responds to the writing assignment given. The response shows an appropriate level of thought and sophistication (ideas are complex and fully amplified), and contains an assertive, specific thesis.

#### **Organization**

The focus of interest is clear. The paper is arranged in organized paragraphs which contain transitional sentences connecting them to the thesis and to surrounding body paragraphs.

#### **Evidence**

The author uses relevant and adequate evidence to support the points made in the paper. The author uses direct quotations or cited paraphrases consistently to support key assertions, and these quotations or paraphrases are fully amplified and explained within the context of the author’s argument.

#### **Style, Grammar, and Format**

Sentences are varied in length and are grammatically correct. Word choice is appropriate. Paper is punctuated correctly; spelling is correct. The paper is neat and legible, and is within the length limits specified by the paper topic guidelines.