

Writing Project 1: Summary/Response Essay

Deadlines: Due to Ivy Learn by 11:59 PM _____

Revision due to Ivy Learn by 11:59 PM _____

Format: MLA or APA style (we will discuss these in detail in class).

Length: Minimum 1000 words

Total Points Possible: 125

Essay

100 points

Timely Submission & Grading Conference

25 points

Purpose: The goal of this assignment is for you to briefly summarize the events of one of the stories from Roxane Gay's *Ayiti* and write a response that examines the themes and messages of that story in a well-organized, thesis-based essay.

Task: For this assignment you will need to complete the following tasks:

- 1.) Read *Ayiti* and select a story that particularly interests you.
- 2.) Take notes on the story and identify the themes that appear throughout it.
- 3.) **Analyze** the various elements of the story (characters, setting, plot, symbols) to determine what message or messages the story is conveying to its audience.

To begin your analysis, it may be helpful if you answer the following questions:

What messages does the story send about class? Does this depiction of class and the conflicts surrounding it seem accurate and appropriate to you? Why and/or why not?

What messages does the story send about gender? Does this depiction of gender and the conflicts surrounding it seem accurate and appropriate to you? Why and/or why not?

What messages does the story send about sexual orientation and/or identity? Does this depiction of sexual orientation and/or identity and the conflicts surrounding it seem accurate and appropriate to you? Why and/or why not?

What messages does the story send about nationality and/or race? Does this depiction of nationality and/or race and the conflicts surrounding it seem accurate and appropriate to you? Why and/or why not?

- 4.) Write a **thesis statement** that explains how the story uses various elements (characters, symbolic language, plot development, etc) to convey its message or messages and your response to the story as a whole. **Hint:** Your thesis statement may be written as an answer to one or more of the above questions.
- 5.) Develop an essay **outline** showing how you will use an Introduction, Body, and Conclusion to support your thesis statement.
- 6.) Using proper **MLA** or **APA format**, write a **well-organized, thesis-based** essay that describes and, most importantly, **analyzes** the story using your own ideas and **support** (direct quotes and examples) from the source.

Evaluation: Here are the six things I will consider when evaluating your essay:

- 1.) **Thesis Statement:** Does the essay contain a clear, specific thesis that explains how the story uses various elements to convey its message or messages? **(10 points)**
- 2.) **Introduction/Summary:** Does your essay contain a brief summary of the story, and does this summary help provide your audience with a context for the scene you will analyze. **(15 points)**
- 3.) **Body/Analysis:** Is the thesis statement supported throughout the essay using specific details from the story (quotations and examples) and your own thoughtful analysis of those details? **(25 points)**
- 4.) **Conclusion:** Does the conclusion summarize the introduction and body of the paper with insightful comments and provide a final analysis? Does it wrap up the writing and leave the reader with something to think about? **(15 points)**
- 5.) **Organization:** Is the essay well-organized and easy to follow? **(25 points)**
- 6.) **Mechanics:** Is the essay (including document formatting, in-text citations, and References or Works Cited page) properly formatted in either APA or MLA style? Is the essay completely free of spelling and grammatical errors? Does the essay show evidence of thorough revision, proofreading, and editing? **(10 points)**

Timely Submission and Grading Conference: For this assignment you will be required to submit your essay by the due date and meet with me for a grading conference. The timely submission of a completed essay and attendance at your scheduled conference will be worth **25 points**.