Paper 1 Assignment

WR 100: Women and Madness in Literature

**Purpose**

To think critically about an author’s motivations; to think about moments in a text in relation to the text as a whole; to form an argument that is both creative and effective.

**Assignment**

1. Write a letter to the author, Kate Chopin, pinpointing a significant scene or passage of *The Awakening* that initially seems unnecessary or superfluous. Make a case for **maintaining** that particular scene or passage, using evidence from the rest of the novel and up to one secondary (argument) source. You may draw from any of the contextual material or critical essays within your copy of *The Awakening,* but **only one.** Questions to consider: What does this excerpt add to the text? How does it develop plot or characters? Be specific and include evidence from the rest of the novel. This letter should be **approximately 1200 words.**
2. After you’ve completed the first letter, write a second short letter arguing that Kate Chopin should **remove the same passage** in the text. What seems jarring about the scene? What sets it apart from the rest of Chopin’s novel? Would a different kind of scene work better in the moment you’ve chosen? Be specific, and use evidence from the text. This second letter should be **approximately 600 words.**

**Guidelines:**

To complete this assignment successfully, you’ll need to:

-Select a compelling passage to write about that can be argued both ways.

-Think carefully about how the passage relates to the text as a whole.

-Present a carefully crafted argument for each side. After all, you’re writing to the author herself!

**Note:** Please feel free to run the passage you’re considering by me via email or in person before beginning to draft.

**Due Dates**

Passage selection, to share in class: Tuesday, Oct. 10

First Draft Due: Friday, October 13

Second Draft Due: Friday, Oct. 20 (Option of conference or written feedback)

Final Draft Due: Monday, Oct. 30

**Requirements**

* Clearly marked “Keep” and “Omit” letters addressed to Kate Chopin.
* Correct MLA in-text citations and a Works Cited.
* Optional use of **one** secondary source from your edition of *The Awakening*.