Paper 1 Assignment

WR 100: Women and Madness in Literature

**Purpose**

To enter an already existing conversation about a text; to use a source to motivate an argument; to structure a coherent argument and provide appropriate textual evidence with analysis.

**Assignment**

In an essay of around 1000 words, write an argument about *Trifles* that is motivated by the secondary source excerpt at the bottom of this page. Your primary focus in this essay is the play, so you will need to include carefully selected passages with accompanying analysis. Judith Stephens will motivate your argument to give it a direction and shape.

**Logistics**

Paper claim and introductory paragraph Due Wed., Sept. 20

First Draft, Peer Review Workshop Due Fri., Sept. 22

Mandatory Conference Mon., Sept. 25-Weds., Sept. 27

Final Draft Due Friday, Sept. 29

**Requirements**

* Include a correctly formatted Works Cited page (see Turabian 19.2, pp. 187-97).
* Title your essay (see Turabian 13.3, p. 127).
* Add a word count to the end of your essay.

“I am suggesting that, in addition to these views, the play also colludes with dominant gender ideology, and, in this respect, refutes its own argument. Compensation is at work here because the women's moral superiority enables them to go against or to subvert conventional law and still be ‘right.’ However, recuperation is served in that ‘women's law’ is pitted against ‘men's law,’ and thus the play perpetuates the idea of separate spheres. By finding and concealing the incriminating evidence, the women win their own individual victory, but the system continues intact….The play perpetuates the romantic notion that each woman can secretly and individually subvert the larger system, if she so desires.”

**Stephens, Judith L. “Gender Ideology and Dramatic Convention in Progressive Era**

**Plays, 1890-1920.” *Theatre Journal*, vol. 41, no. 1, 1989, pp. 45–55.**

Glaspell, Susan. *Trifles.*1916. www.english.unt.edu/~simpkins/Trifles.pdf. Accessed July

20, 2017.