Paper 2 Assignment

WR 150: Women and Madness in Literature

**Purpose**

To think critically about potential uses and interpretations of a text; to form an argument that is both creative and effective; to consider which arguments are most useful for addressing a specific audience.

**Assignment**

Write an **1,800-2,000-word proposal** to an organization encouraging them to use (or to cease using) Kate Chopin’s *The Awakening* to further their mission.

Possible approaches:

**Option 1.**

Write a proposal to your high school district explaining why its English curriculum should or should not include *The Awakening.*

*Suggestions:* Think about the current curriculum of one particular class or grade. What is it missing that inclusion of *The Awakening* could remedy? If *The Awakening* is already taught, why should it remain in the curriculum, or why should it be removed? Why is it important that high school students read this book right now? What are specific moments in the text that teachers might focus on to make discussions engaging or thought-provoking?

**Option 2.**

Write a proposal to a popular feminist book club (Oprah’s Book Club; Emma Watson’s Goodreads.com group “Our Shared Shelf,” etc.) and propose why this group should or should not read *The Awakening.*

*Suggestions:* What is the group’s mission? What books have they read in the past, and how might Chopin’s text complement or challenge them? What moments in the text might support the book club’s mission? What sorts of discussions or questions might the text raise for this particular group?

**Option 3.**

A proposal of your own creation. (Please run your idea by me before beginning).

**Use 2-3 sources (a variety of BEAT sources) in addition to *The Awakening***to make your proposal’s argument convincing to your specific audience.

**Guidelines:**

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

-Research your audience.

-Think about the types of arguments that will be compelling to your chosen audience.

-Effectively use a variety of sources to support your argument.

-Interpret moments in the text and communicate their importance to your readers.

**Due Dates**

Choose which option you’ll write,

and come to class with some WBP:Thurs., Feb. 15

First Draft Due: Thurs., Feb. 22

Conferences (Optional): Thurs., Feb. 22-Tues., Feb. 27

Second Draft Due: Thurs., March 1

Peer Review Workshop: Thurs., March 1

Final Draft Due: Thurs., March 15

**Requirements**

* Correct MLA in-text citations and a Works Cited page.
* Use of evidence from Chopin’s text
* At least 2-3 additional sources

**Structure**

Here is one possible model for structuring your proposal:

1. State your purpose.  Do this clearly and concisely so that the reader knows immediately why you are writing.
2. Give some background information about why you are proposing your suggestion so that the reader has a better understanding of the problem.
3. State a solution to the problem; this is where you give specifics about your suggestion.
4. Continue with any costs that will be involved. (optional)
5. Conclude by restating the problem and proposed solution.