Paper 3 Assignment

WR 150: Women and Madness in Literature

**Purpose:** To develop your own claim from course materials and/or outside sources; to ask and answer a research question that interests you; to develop your own research project from question to complete paper.

**Assignment:** Write an approximately 2,500-word paper in which you make a claim related to our course theme of madness. You are permitted to write about any text (film, TV, music, literary texts) that you wish—including outside of the materials we’ve discussed in class. You may also write about a text we’ve read in class.

You have much greater freedom to shape your own research question this time, but you will have many opportunities to hone your argument both in and out of class with peer and instructor feedback. Be sure to write a claim for which you can provide evidence from a text. Remember: the goal is to express complex, engaging ideas in crystal-clear language.

**Guidelines:**

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

* Identify which argument sources you will work with, and which exhibit source(s). **Use at least three (3) argument sources, and 4-5 sources overall.**
* Make a clear, arguable claim.
* Provide evidence from exhibit sources to support your claim.
* Spend sufficient time analyzing the evidence you provide.
* Ask a question that truly interests or perplexes you about the material, and propose an answer to that question.
* Correctly use MLA format to cite every source you use.

**Due Dates:**

Email research question, initial answer,

and Annotated Bibliography to Kristin Thurs., March 29

Second draft for Conferences or Written Feedback: Thurs., April 5

Research Project Presentations Thurs., April 5; Tuesday, April 10

Final Draft: Tues., April 24

**Comments:**

This paper is more open-ended in order to allow you to pursue what interests you in the text. I am happy to communicate via email, office hours, or appointments to help you in determining your claim, the sources you will use, and/or any other aspects of the paper.

**Sample Research Question and Initial Answer**

How does Antoinette's time in the convent affect how she behaves in her marriage later on? (I would want to try and explain how her time in the convent wasn't completely satisfying for her and tie that to her later use of Obeah to mend her marriage.)

**What is an annotated bibliography?**

-A list of sources you’re considering using, including a brief description.

-This description may vary in length. **For Paper 3, your annotation should be one paragraph per source.**

**-**From OWL at Purdue: “Some annotations may summarize, some may assess or evaluate a source, and some may reflect on the source’s possible uses for the project at hand. Some annotations may address all three of these steps.”

-For Paper 3, please briefly write what the source is about; how it relates to your proposed project; and how you might incorporate it in your writing.

-**Your annotated bibliography should include 4 to 5 argument, background, and/or theory sources, with at least three being argument sources.**

**Sample Annotated Bibliography Entry:**

Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. Anchor Books, 1995.

Lamott's book offers honest advice on the nature of a writing life, complete with its insecurities and failures. Taking a humorous approach to the realities of being a writer, the chapters in Lamott's book are wry and anecdotal and offer advice on everything from plot development to jealousy, from perfectionism to struggling with one's own internal critic.

In the process, Lamott includes writing exercises designed to be both productive and fun. Lamott offers sane advice for those struggling with the anxieties of writing, but her main project seems to be offering the reader a reality check regarding writing, publishing, and struggling with one's own imperfect humanity in the process. Rather than a practical handbook to producing and/or publishing, this text is indispensable because of its honest perspective, its down-to-earth humor, and its encouraging approach.

Chapters in this text could easily be included in the curriculum for a writing class. Several of the chapters in Part 1 address the writing process and would serve to generate discussion on students' own drafting and revising processes. Some of the writing exercises would also be appropriate for generating classroom writing exercises. Students should find Lamott's style both engaging and enjoyable.