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1 | Prompt

Heart of Darkness Analytical Essay

English 10: Landscapes of the Self and Other

For your first literary analysis paper, you will be coming up with your own interpretive argument about

OPTION 1: Choose a recurring word, motif, pattern, or character

Choose a word, motif, pattern, or character that you've noticed throughout the book, and construct an a

OPTION 2: Choose a moment in the text

Pick an excerpt of no more than 1/3-1/2 a page from the book, and construct an analytical, argumentative

You will likely make connections to other parts of the text, particularly as you engage broader implica

OPTION 3: Propose your own analytical adventure

If neither option 1 or 2 appeals to you, please schedule time to meet with me during tutorial to discuss

Basic requirements:

Your essay will need to be 2-3 pages in length.

Your essay should include, at least, 2 thoughtfully selected and analyzed direct citations per body par

You should double-space your paper, use 1" margins, use 12-point font (preferably Times New Roman), and

Include a works cited entry for Heart of Darkness at the end of your essay.

Template Items Assessed for this Paper

Understanding Literature: Form and Function

Close Reading and Argumentation

Structure and Mechanics

The Writer's Voice

Due Dates:

Topic selection and thesis approval 10/2

A rough draft 10/5

at least, one page double-spaced will be due at the end of class. If you want feedback on a rough draft

Peer edit 10/7

The final draft 10/12 will be due at the beginning of class

2 | Evidence

- I want to analyze the language on the second half of page 92 > “I thought his memory was like the other memories of the dead that accumulate in every man’s life—a vague impress on the brain of shadows that had fallen on it in their swift and final passage; but before the high and ponderous door, between the tall houses of a street as still and decorous as a well-kept alley in a cemetery, I had a vision of him on the stretcher, opening his mouth voraciously, as if to devour all the earth with all its mankind. He lived then before me; he lived as much as he had ever lived—a shadow insatiable of splendid appearances, of frightful realities; a shadow darker than the shadow of the night, and draped nobly in the folds of a gorgeous eloquence. The vision seemed to enter the house with me—the stretcher, the phantom-bearers, the wild crowd of obedient worshipers the gloom of the forests, the glitter of the reach between the murky bends, the beat of the drum, regular and muffled like the beating of a heart—the heart of a conquering darkness. It was a moment of triumph for the wilderness, an invading and vengeful rush which, it seemed to me, I would have to keep back alone for the salvation of another soul. And the memory of what I had heard him say afar there, with the horned shapes stirring at my back, in the glow of fires, within the patient woods, those broken phrases came back to me, were heard again in their ominous and terrifying simplicity. I remembered his abject pleading, his abject threats, the colossal scale of his vile desires, the meanness, the torment, the tempestuous anguish of his soul. And later on I seemed to see his collected languid manner, when he said one day, ‘This lot of ivory now is really mine. The Company did not pay for it. I collected it myself at a very great personal risk. I am afraid they will try to claim it as theirs though. H’m. It is a difficult case. What do you think I ought to do—resist? Eh? I want no more than justice.’ ... He wanted no more than justice—no more than justice. I rang the bell before a mahogany door on the first floor, and while I waited he seemed to stare at me out of the glassy panel—stare with that wide and immense stare embracing condemning, loathing all the universe. I seemed to hear the whispered cry, ‘The horror! The horror!’”

3 | Thesis
