

Critical Lens Analysis Reflection

24 April 2013

The synopses for the two novels were very generic, and didn't help to prove my arguments very well. The synopses should have highlighted certain parts of the book that I intended to critique later so that the reader would have the intended mindset about the book. In the thesis paper, the historical background information should include bits of the content that I intend to argue about later so that readers will be more inclined to understand and side with the arguments I present. The background information paragraphs are a good opportunity to get the reader in a certain mindset about the topic, and the opportunity needs to be used. An example is the general idea behind working conditions in the Industrial Revolution. Most people will go in with the mindset that working conditions were terrible and people were being mistreated. One of my arguments, however, talks about how the Industrial Age provided job opportunities for people, so it will be awkward for readers to interpret that argument if there is no introduction as to the benefits of the Industrial Age. Another issue was that all three analyses were weak in their criticisms, and they left the reader wanting more. Often, it would seem as though I was finally getting at something in my analysis, and then the paragraph would end and the reader would feel like the paragraph was incomplete. In the thesis, I should completely explain every argument and go in depth so that the reader completely understands the point I am trying to make with the analysis. Instead of letting analysis only scratch the surface of what I'm trying to say, it should really highlight the ideas I'm trying to convey.

In the critical lens analysis, the introduction to the paper was a good introduction to the topics and also to the lens that I was going to be examining. The single paragraph made it easy to start reading the paper and understand where it was supposed to go. The conclusion also wrapped up the paper and left the reader satisfied with the overall state of the analysis. Though the individual analysis paragraphs didn't go too far in depth, the conclusion was able to tie them together and remind the reader of the main purpose of the paper. This can be repeated in the thesis paper easily; the best way to make an introduction or conclusion sound good is to keep revising it until it both grabs the reader's attention and serves its purpose; this involves, in the introduction, *introducing* the point of the paper to the reader, and, in the conclusion, reminding the reader what the paper was all about. I also did well in finding deep similarities to argue. The arguments were not based on insignificant details, but rather on important observations that persisted throughout the two novels. The important strategy for the thesis paper is to keep the reasons important and relevant. The comparison should outline the significance of both of the events in history.

Writer's Notebook: Thoughts about final exam and portfolio

24 September 2012

I don't think the portfolio will be hard to piece together, but it will be hard to perfect. There will inevitably be times during which I won't want to choose among entries or projects, but I suppose I'll be able to pick eventually. That the final exam consists of previous work is good just because it will end with lots of content, but won't require all the work for producing the content compressed into a small amount of time.

Reflection on Thoughts about final exam and portfolio

It does feel nice to use old assignments in a new project. Editing them to improve them takes time, but there wouldn't have been enough time to write all of the content in this portfolio from scratch. It seems like I was correct when I wrote this; I had trouble deciding between my critical lens analysis and my thesis paper, so this portfolio has both of them. The portfolio is hard to perfect!