ENGL 102-A02

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**Essay #2: Argumentative Paper**

For your final essay, you must write an argumentative paper on Lorraine Hansberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun.* An **argumentative paper** is a “genre of writing that requires the student to investigate topic; collect, generate, and evaluate evidence; and establish a position on the topic in a concise manner” (“Argumentative” Baker et al.), and provides you with an opportunity strengthen your argumentative skills. Your final paper will be a culmination of an involved process of topic proposition, literary analysis, critical thinking, organization, revision, and composition.

This is a formal academic essay; therefore, you **must** develop an introduction with an argumentative thesis statement, body paragraphs (with both topic and transition sentences) that engage with the *primary text*, as well as a conclusion that answers your proposed essay question.

Your final paper is worth **50%** of your final grade, but will be comprised of four components: **1)** essay proposal **2)** first draft **3)** peer revision worksheet and **4)** final paper.

Choose **ONE** of the following topics on *A Raisin in the Sun.* Remember, these are very broad topics, so you will need to narrow your focus substantially in order to avoid a generalizing essay topic.

**Topics for *A Raisin in the Sun*:**

1. Construct an argument about the **setting** of *A Raisin in the Sun.* Consider the position of the Youngers in the Northern United States, South Side ghetto in Chicago, and/or Clybourne Park.
2. Even though this is Walter’s story, women are at the center of Hansberry’s play. Consider the roles **women characters** play in *A Raisin in the Sun.* You may want to reflect on generational differences, racial differences, and/or familial differences.
3. Discuss the significance of **race and/or racism** in *A Raisin in the Sun.* You may want to consider ideas about race in relation to issues like class, black and white communities in America, or between Africans and African Americans.
4. Develop your own topic. You have nearly unlimited freedom in proposing your own topic on Hansberry’s play! However, you must run your idea by me first, either via e-mail or during my office hours (or by appointment).

* **Final Essay Assignment Breakdown:**

1. **Essay Proposal** (5%)

**Due:** May 27

An essay proposal will be due on **May 27.** This is an informal assignment designed to get you thinking about your final term paper well in advance of the due date (it’s 35%, after all!).

In preparation for your argumentative paper, you must complete an essay proposal in the form of a mind map that identifies your narrowed essay topic in the form of *a question, a tentative thesis statement, and a diagram* of the key issues, concepts, patterns, and textual evidence that relate to your topic.This assignment can be as informal or formal as you choose. The assignment guidelines will be posted on our eClass website, and we will discuss and practice mind-mapping in class over the next week.

1. **First Draft** (5%)

**Due:** June 3

The second component of your essay is the development of a first draft. As we have discussed in class, drafting and revision are important parts of the writing process. In order for you to get the most out of this assignment, *please complete as full of a first draft as possible*. Your essay does not need to be perfect at this stage, but it does need to be a legitimate draft. At the very least, this draft **includes** a thesis statement and working body paragraphs. The more complete your draft, the more content there is to work with and run by another set of eyes. On the day the first draft is due I will check to make sure you have completed a draft, but I will not formally collect your first draft until **June 7** when you turn in your final paper, so **please keep your first draft.**

1. **Peer Revision Worksheet** (5%)

**Due:** June 3 (in class)

A peer-editing session for the paper will take place in class on the day you turn in your first draft. Peer revision is designed to assist your writing process in multiple ways. Peer revision:

* attunes you to the act of critical reading
* allows you to see how other students think and write, which may provide helpful insight into your own writing process
* helps you develop modes of constructive criticism
* offers you an opportunity to strengthen your own writing by learning to take into account the responses of readers
* teaches you how to gather and respond to feedback in your own work

Peer review is designed to help you as a reader and as a writer, so please take the time and effort to make substantial and insightful commentary on your partner’s essay.

For this session, I will assign you an editing partner based on the text you have chosen to work on for your paper. Please fill out the worksheet for your partner in class and return it to them at the end. I will collect the peer revision sheets when you turn in your final paper on **June 7**, so please keep your peer revision worksheetso I can give you and your partner a grade for the assignment**.**

1. **Final Paper** (35%)

**Due**: June 7

**Word Count**: 1200-1400 words (not including title or works cited page)

**Format:** MLA

Please turn in your **1) essay proposal, 2) peer revision worksheet, and 3) final draft** on June 7.I will be evaluating your essay on the following:

* explicit thesis statement that conveys a persuasive critical argument
* unified and coherent body paragraphs structured to develop and support your proposed argument
* clear and logical transitions between introduction, body, and conclusion
* examples from the primary text that you explain and connect to your argument
* an introduction and conclusion that avoid generalizations
* formal prose (avoid personal pronouns and use of the first-person)
* proper MLA in-text citation formatting for any and all sources

**Final Essay Checklist:** (make sure you look this list over before you turn in your paper)

In terms of formatting, your essay must **include** the following:

☐ Typed, 12-ptfont (this includes your title, heading, and works cited page)

☐ Double-spaced pages

☐ 1-inch margins

☐ Title (but no title page)

☐ Name, Course Number, Instructor’s Name, Submission Date (this information should be listed in the **top left corner** of your first page only)

☐ Page numbers in the top right corner of *all pages*(page numbers should only include your last name. Ex: Sydora 2)

☐ Works Cited on separate page

☐ Word Count (at the end of your essay, after the conclusion)

☐ Single-sided pages

☐ **Essay Proposal**

☐ **First Draft**

☐ **Your Partner’s Peer Revision Worksheet**

☐ **Pages stapled or paper-clipped together!**