



AFRICAN FILM & LITERATURE – 2023

SHORT RESPONSE PAPER #2 (5%) – **IDENTITY, POWER, CULTURE, & RESISTANCE**

Objectives and Description

This SHORT RESPONSE PIECE is designed to give you the chance to explore the ideas concerning **IDENTITY, POWER, CULTURE, & RESISTANCE** we have explored in the past 2 WEEKS. Accordingly, this assignment aims to:

- Sharpen your close reading skills;
- Give you the opportunity to apply knowledge, close reading skills, and cinema analysis we began learning in WEEK I;
- Improve your skills in critical thinking and independent criticism;

Options

For this assignment, choose **ONE** of the following **TWO OPTIONS**:

- **OPTION ONE**
- Referring to my lecture notes, slides, and our class discussions, perform a **comparative close reading** (i.e compare and contrast) **THREE** instances from Saawadi's *Woman at Point Zero* referring to: **IDENTITY, POWER, CULTURE, or RESISTANCE IN RELATION TO GENDER**.
- You should not neglect to analyse or comment upon the narrative technique(s) that have been employed in the chapters you've selected, how they work, and why they are significant and relevant to the topic you've chosen. For example, diction, literary figures, parts of speech etc.
- Narrative techniques mean the various literary, rhetorical or stylistic devices used to give prominence to, or draw the reader's attention to key ideas, issues or information in a story. These include intertextuality/allusions, stream of consciousness/interior monologue, symbolism, contrast, flashback, etc.

OPTION TWO:

- Compare and contrast **TSOTSI** & **ANOWA**. Your comparison must be based on **TWO** of

the following overarching topics: **IDENTITY, POWER, CULTURE, or RESISTANCE**

- **For example**, you could compare and contrast Tsotsi and Anowa and explore how each faces a dilemma in terms of their identities. One is trapped between being a lawless thug and a moral protector of orphaned youth, and the other is trapped between being a free-spirit and a conservative wife. You would then use the rest of your paper to explore these dilemmas, how they are presented, how they are similar, and how they differ.

Process and Steps

- **PICK MAYBE ONE OR TWO SCENES THAT YOU WILL DESCRIBE AND ANALYSE IN GREATER DEPTH!**
- For both options, re-read text several times/re-watch key scenes you want to discuss.
- Taking notes on key ideas, the artistic use of language, and the various literary devices that foreground the key ideas or issues in the text.
- If you are working with a film, be sure to include the language of film analysis we learned in WEEK I.
- Be sure to use the resources I've shared with you, including the supplementary readings for each WEEK on the SYLLABUS.
- **Draft due:** XXXXXX at 23:30 GMT on Canvas for those who want comments before they submit their final draft.
- **Final essay due:** XXXXXX 23:30 GMT on Canvas

NB: All work from this point will be reviewed with Turnitin. Any detection of plagiarism will result in severe penalties so please make sure you DO NOT PLAGIARIZE.

FORMAT

- Length: 2 Pages double- spaced throughout. **DO NOT INCLUDE A TITLE PAGE.**
- **ONLY .docx files** should be submitted in the assignment section on Canvas
- **APA citation style** for BOTH in-text citations and paraphrases AND reference list **FOR ALL SOURCES YOU USE IN YOUR PAPER. ALL CITATION MUST BE IN THE PROPER APA STYLE AND CONSISTENT THROUGHOUT YOUR PIECE**
- Font: Times New Roman
- Font Size: 12
- Double spaced **THROUGHOUT.**

Grading Rubric

This assignment will be graded out of 150 points:

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement
Introduction (25, 21, 17, 13)	Interesting and relevant hook; clear and concise thesis statement (of main argument - major claim - about themes and techniques)	Somewhat good hook; thesis statement lacks clarity or concision (on one items)	Acceptable hook; thesis statement lacks clarity or concision (of two major items)	Irrelevant hook; thesis statement lacks clarity and concision (of two or more major items)
Main Body (50, 43, 36, 30)	Adequate development of argument or substantiation of claims; clearly stating thematic concern(s) and the dominant techniques foregrounding them, and adequately explaining and supporting them with textual evidence	Lacks adequate development or fails to clearly state thematic concerns or dominant techniques	Lacks two requirements	Lacks more than two requirements
Conclusion (5, 4, 2, 1)	Restatement of thesis, summary of main arguments, and relevant and final remarks highlighting the writer's (student critic's) insights from the intrinsic analysis of the text	Somewhat clear and relevant conclusion, one component missing or incomplete	Acceptable conclusion, some components missing	Unclear conclusion with several missing components
Style and clarity of expression (30, 26, 22, 18)	Clear and engaging written language; avoids vague pronouns, passive voice, redundancies, dummy subjects	A few issues with the style (redundancies, passive, vague pronouns, etc.)	Several issues with style	Style impedes readability and understanding
Mechanics (20, 17, 14, 11)	Document carefully proofread to eliminate typographical, spelling, punctuation, grammar, syntax errors	A few mistakes	Several mistakes	Excessive errors impede readability and understanding
Structure (20, 17, 14, 11)	Logical sequence of arguments, well structured paragraphs (topic, supporting, and concluding sentences)	Adequate structure and paragraphs despite a few issues	Several issues with the structure	Confusing structure

