Heidi Dye

Rosales

ENG 1BH

14 May 2019

Proposal

1.) For my final essay, I will be analyzing the novel Southland. I chose this particular literary work because I connected with this novel much more than I did with any of the other readings from this semester. The novel was entertaining throughout all of the chapters, the literary style read rather easily, and all of the characters were written as though they were based on real people instead of being entirely fictional. Plus, I felt that I had a personal connection with Jackie because she was so relatable. I am not too sure at this point what other literary texts that I will be comparing Southland to just yet, but to prove my planned thesis, a comparison will be needed. So far I am keeping The Cuban Swimmer, Big Black Good Man, and A Passage to India at the forefront of my mind. A vast majority of my evidence may have to come from the media and from the entertainment industry. Keeping this in mind, I am going to analyze Southland through a Historical Criticism lens and/or an American-multiculturalism lens, but I may research some more lens as I conduct some more research for this essay. More than likely, I will end up using the historical lens because I will be analyzing past works of writing and cinematography to support my thesis.

2.) I am hoping to prove that the novel Southland has a sort of reverse whitewashing, where instead of over-glamorizing the Caucasian characters over the minority characters, the novel does the complete opposite of this idea, and all the minority characters are over-glamorized and the Caucasian characters are not. The minority characters, Jackie, Curtis, Frank, Rebecca, and Jimmy, just to name a few, are described as being attractive, fit, and desirable to others; whereas, the white people in the novel, such as the people at the colored beach or that one doctor who kills \_\_\_ wife as he tries to deliver their baby, are all described as overweight, pink faced, and unattractive. So far, I do not have a fancy thesis formed but I am still working on how I should phrase my argument. Nina Revoyr’s use of tone and imagery helps to convey an underlying theme in the novel of reverse gaze, where minority characters are over-glamorized compared to their Caucasian counterparts.

3.) While researching, I need to find the correct phrase (it is probably not gaze) for this idea for my thesis. After looking up “gaze in movies,” I could not find the exact evidence I was looking for. Most of the Google Scholar sources support gaze with a feminist point of view and an African American point of view. I need the evidence to support gaze with different types of races, not just White versus Black. I am going to have to look up direct, and specific phrases such as “misrepresentation of minority races in the media” or “why are Caucasian characters in movies, television, and literature, over-beautified compared to their minority counterparts,” into the normal Google search engine to find the correct phrase I am looking for instead of gaze. In addition, I need to research if this was a conscience idea for Nina Revoyr to Cullen-ize (referring to Twilight and how the Cullen’s and all other vampires from the novel are supposed to be unregularly attractive compared to the humans. I might use this phrase in my essay) her minority characters over the very few white characters.

4.)