**English 12ACP – Essay #5: *Hamlet* Hybrid Essay**

Share doc with Mr. B by beginning of class Friday 12/20

Your Task

Write a 3-5-page essay in response to *Hamlet* that uses the tools of creative nonfiction *and* analysis (you’ve thoroughly practiced both at this point). Try to make insight into the book *and* yourself/human beings/the world that you could not achieve without this duel look and hybrid style.

You have a choice between The Standard Path, The Slightly More Adventurous Path, or The Much More Adventurous Path.

The Standard Path

If you prefer a structured assignment, this is what you should do:

1. Choose one of the readymade theses below, and write 1.5-2.5 pages of analysis over 3 body paragraphs. Follow all the conventions you’ve learned (in this course, or prior) about analytical writing, except limit what would be your introduction and conclusion to a sentence or two in the first and last paragraph respectively.
2. Hamlet’s tragedy is that of a complicated man who finds himself in a situation that calls for a simple man.
3. Hamlet’s tragedy is that he is, at an advanced age, still an adolescent who is just facing the reality of evil and duplicity in the world for the first time.
4. Hamlet’s tragedy is that of a civilized man in a barbaric world.
5. Hamlet’s tragedy is that of a man caught essentially by his deep religious convictions; he is a man of conscience.
6. Hamlet’s tragedy is that he is too civilized to be Laertes, too emotionally involved to be Horatio, and too melancholy to be Fortinbras.
7. Hamlet’s tragedy is that his deep moral repugnance for the deed is not recognized as such—the tragedy is that Hamlet *thinks* he is lazy and cowardly.
8. Hamlet’s tragedy is that he thinks too much and therefore cannot act.
9. Hamlet’s tragedy is one of excess: he is far too rash, too introspective, too sensitive, too emotional.
10. Hamlet’s tragedy is not a tragedy at all—but simply the story of a young man facing some of the problems of growing up.
11. Hamlet is, at heart, a coward and avoids fulfilling his task until he is forced to.
12. Then, write 1.5-2.5 pages of Creative Nonfiction on a similar topic. Some options:
13. What have you experienced or witnessed in your lifetime that is comparable to the aspects of the play you discussed in your analytical part? Tell that story, and make some comparisons.
14. Imagine a *specific* contemporary context for the drama of the play, with particular attention to the aspects you focused on in your analysis. This doesn’t need to be something you’ve experienced per se, but you should persuade your reader of its plausibility. The model for this would be Big Hutch’s idea for the play set in prison.
15. Given the nature of Hamlet’s experience you demonstrated in your analysis, should the play be required reading for high-school seniors? Why or why not? Is it relevant enough? If it is not relevant, does that matter? Should it be read in the original language, or a modernized version? Why?
16. If it is relevant enough to the specifics of your analytical part, further develop one of your free-writes from the beginning of this unit:
    * 1. … the ghost/devil/angel you saw that one time, or
      2. … a time you were really angry with your parents, or
      3. … a time you were really angry with yourself, or
      4. … something you’ve tried really hard to understand.

The Slightly More Adventurous Path

Still use The Standard Path structure, but come up with your own analytical thesis and/or a different form of Creative Nonfiction topic than offered above.

Or, do the same, but switch the order of essay’s two parts.

The Much More Adventurous Path

Achieve the general goals for this assignment as stated in Your Task, but come up with your own structure. This might just occur to you, or you might need to write your way into it. If you’re expecting to do this, run your idea by me no later than Tuesday 12/17.

Very Important Reminder

No matter your method, your thoughts and your language must be original. You’re not expected to use any secondary sources besides the book and the films we watched. If you do find yourself reading anything about the play, you’re required to cite your sources in MLA format. Neglecting to do so is plagiarism, even if unintentional. See the student handbook for more on that.