**Essay #6 – English 12ACP**

Write a 3-5-page essay in support of a clear and interesting thesis about *The Stranger*. You must cite a minimum of 3 direct quotations. For further writing-craft guidance, review the Analytical Writing Review Packet you received at the beginning of the quarter, and my comments on your Essays 4 and 5. Your essay may be purely analytical (like #4), or it may combine the tools of analysis and creative nonfiction (like #5)—whichever you’re more comfortable with or you believe better suited to this occasion.

Choose from the topics below. Addressing a single topic is probably best, but you may combine topics if you can keep a clear focus.

1. Why is it called *The Stranger*?
2. Consider *games* as a motif. Which events does Meursault or Camus characterize as games? How and why? What does Camus suggest or reveal about human beings or society through the use of this motif?
3. Study the motifs of *sun/light/day/heat* and *dark/night*. What kinds of events/experiences/thoughts occur in these different conditions? Consider the literal and symbolic. Maybe consider conventional associations of these images/conditions, and the degree to which the novel affirms or rejects those.
4. Based on the definitions we used in class, and considering the *entire* novel, does Meursault’s journey better illustrate *absurdism* or *existentialism*?
5. To what degree does Meursault’s struggle and journey parallel that of Sisyphus? Refer to Camus’s essay on Sisyphus, and consider the *entire* novel.
6. What does the novel suggest or reveal about *justice*?
7. Many good films share *The Stranger*’s themes. Martin Scorsese’s *Taxi Driver* (1976) is one. Watch the film with attention to similarities, and craft a thesis that compares the two thematically.
8. At what moment does Meursault change? How and why? What is the significance of this change?

A lot has been written about *The Stranger*, so you might be tempted to do secondary research. I don’t encourage it at this point—if you’re really intrigued, wait until after you’ve turned in your essay to consult other sources. Secondary reading is not necessary to write an excellent essay; I’m asking you to make original insight based on your own close reading, possibly informed by class discussion. If you do decide to consult outside sources, remember that you must cite any ideas, information or language you appropriate in MLA format (ask me if you need help with this). Using secondary sources without such attribution is plagiarism, which carries severe penalties (see WHS Student Handbook for more information).

(over for schedule)

Schedule

Process work will be spot-checked by instructor for the purposes of formative feedback. Final draft will be evaluated as part of Q2 Portfolio.

Mon 1/13 – working thesis and rough outline (notes on subclaims and examples)

Tues 1/14 – detailed outline (for each body paragraph: topic sentences, quotations, analysis

notes)

Thurs 1/16 – complete draft of essay

Fri 1/17 – **final draft**