**English 11: Identity and Truth in a Changing World**

**Independent Novel Analysis Paper**

**Due dates associated with this project:**

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| Mon., April 25-Wed. April 27  Friday, April 29  Monday, May 2  Friday, May 6  Mon., May 9 - Fri. May 13  Monday, May 16  Mon., May 16-Fri., May 20  Tuesday, May 31  Wed. June 1 – Fri., June 10 | Library research during class time  Paper proposal (Pass/fail grade)  Annotated Works Cited (Pass/fail grade)  Tentative Outline with Thesis (Pass/fail grade)  Outline mini-conferences (5th block/lunches)  Rough drafts due (TurnItIn **AND** Printed copy)  Peer editing and writing time during class  Final draft of paper due  Presentations |

**Things you will actually turn in (with brief descriptions)**

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| Paper proposal | A short description (1/2 to 1 page) describing your self-generated research question and your research plan. What will you research? What course-related questions will you explore in your paper? Pass/fail grade. |
| Annotated Works Cited | After your time spent researching in the library and outside of class, you will turn in a **properly formatted, MLA-style** Works Cited page. Then, you will attach **annotations** that answer the following questions about each source: Why was this source particularly useful? What dimension does it add to your research? What did you learn from this source? Pass/fail grade. |
| Tentative Outline with Thesis | An outline of your paper. This is not set in stone, but it is required. I don’t have a specific outline format that I swear by, so whatever works for you that is logically organized is fine with me. Your tentative thesis (based on research and analysis) should be included in your outline, as well as your plan for your argument (with specific citations/quotes/analysis planned out). Pass/fail grade. |
| Rough draft | A rough draft of your **completed** paper. Not a partial draft. This will be used for peer conferencing and revision. |
| Final draft | Fairly self-explanatory. Your typed, MLA-formatted, polished, beautiful final copy. **5-7 pages—typed and double spaced.** |
| Presentations | You will share your research process and the final product with your classmates during the last week or so of class. Think of this as a book talk with more substance. Details to follow in late May. |

Official Non-negotiable Due Dates Clause

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| Due dates for this project are non-negotiable except in cases of extreme need. That said, failure to submit a pass/fail assignment on the due date will give you a **ZERO** for that assignment. Even if you’re not here, get it to me, give it to a friend, email me, send an owl. In the aforementioned “cases of extreme need,” it is **YOUR** responsibility to talk to me **IN ADVANCE** to make arrangements. | |
| I have read and understand the requirements of this project. I will not lose this paper, but will cherish it throughout the next few months as my key to a passing grade in English 11. | |
| YOU X | ME X |

**The actual assignment/Prompt**

Read through the **overarching questions** of the course (reproduced below for your convenience) and generate your own research question that relates one (or a couple) of the questions to your Independent Novel in some way. In a **5-7 page paper**, you will develop an argument that answers this self-imposed question. Your **thesis**, thus, will be of your own creation—but must lead to a convincing, interesting, and compelling argument supported by *textual analysis* throughout your paper.

**Source guidelines**

You must utilize and cite a combination of 4-5 sources within your research paper. These **must be** critical, analytical academic articles (*not* book reviews), found in either **books** or on JSTOR (which you can access through the library at school and at home). If you read a source and find that it is not useful and/or does not relate sufficiently to your argument/area of interest, discard it and find some that do (or else, adjust your argument accordingly). You will also be required to use relevant, compelling textual evidence to support your argument. If you have not been keeping track of significant passages during your reading time thus far, you must comb your novel for relevant textual evidence.

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| TEXTUAL EVIDENCE (source: novel) +  ACADEMIC COMMENTARY (source: articles) +  YOUR OWN THOUGHTFUL ANALYSIS (source: your brain) =  COMPELLING ARGUMENT |

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| Overarching Questions for English 11: Identity and Truth in a Changing World   * Why do some people conform to social expectations while others rebel? * What can we learn from different generations? * How are people transformed through their relationships with others? * How does one’s perspective shape or alter truth and experience? * What are my own perspectives and biases? How do they influence my reading of a text? * How do different cultures share common universal truths? * How does literature inform a growing, global community? * What experiences determine our individual pathways to adulthood? * What can you learn about yourself by studying the lives of others? * In a culture where we are bombarded with other people trying to define us, how do we make decisions for ourselves?   How do we define who we are? |