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Ms. Sabatino

English 11H

9 May 2011

Sample Paper Outline

**GUIDELINES**

* You should include actual quotes and information in your outline
* The more “fleshed out” your outline is, the easier time you’ll have working on your rough draft next week.
* You must include **YOUR THESIS STATEMENT**

**Format:**

1. Paragraph/section topic (topic sentence)
   1. Detail #1
      1. Support
   2. Detail #2
      1. Support
2. And so on…
3. Introduction
   1. Define postmodernism
   2. O’Brien/TTTC basic background information
   3. **THESIS:** Through fragmentation, multiple narrative voices, and metanarrativity, O’Brien’s *The Things They Carried* tells a postmodern “true war story.”
4. Fragmentation
   1. “They kicked corpses… they talked grunt lingo… as if to encyst and destroy the reality of death itself”
5. Multiple narrative voices: The narrative structure of the novel relies on questionable events and subjective impressions to make sense of war traumas.
   1. “the emotional baggage of men who might die”
   2. This retelling reflects Elaine Scarry’s concept of “redescription”—the soldiers edited their experiences in order to make sense of them.
6. Metanarrative
   1. “Story truth” v. “Happening truth”
   2. “raw material, the stuff itself… [to] Get the hell out of the way and let it tell itself”
7. Tina Chen / Ambiguity / etc.
   1. Narrative is a “wound, a metaphysic fracture in the body politic that refuses to heal completely…” (79).
   2. … vestige of the old way of looking at wars, of the world of glory and clear boundaries between right and wrong, enemy and ally.
   3. “the simple need to talk” to tell the story and to make it true
   4. Absolute truth eludes discussion, and to tell the story otherwise is not to tell a true war story.
8. “What stories can do, I guess, is make things present. I can look at things I never looked at. I can attach faces to grief and love and pity and God. I can be brave. I can make myself feel again” (180).