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Proposal for final paper—Week 1

Once you have decided on an approved prompt and approved text, respond to the questions below. **Please be mindful of the word count and double-space all of your responses.** You are to meet the minimum word requirement without going over the maximum number of words requested.

1. What is your chosen prompt for the literary analysis assignment?
(Use the space below to complete this section. Include the number and first sentence of the prompt you chose from the list of prompts.)

I chose to write about prompt #2: “In some stories, characters come into conflict with the culture in which they live.”

2. What interests you most about this prompt and why?
(Use the space below to complete this section. Your response must be 100 to 150 words.)

I think the idea of alienation is common in literature and life, and I think it will be interesting to explore the concept of alienation in literature to see if and how it relates to alienation in the real world. Many of society’s problems come, I think, from people feeling disconnected from their families and their communities. I know I am to focus on analyzing the literary work, however, so I understand that any personal connections I make should not appear in the paper itself. I also feel that the topic gives me good direction but also allows me some freedom to come up with my own ideas.

3. What text will you write about? Why?
(Use the space below to complete this section. Your response must be 100 to 150 words.)

****Note to students: the text used in this sample CANNOT be used for your own papers. It is not on the list of approved texts and is used here for demonstration purposes only.***

I chose to write about Franz Kafka’s *The Metamorphosis* as I think the story lends itself very well to this prompt. Gregor is clearly alienated from his family and from society.

He has no friends or activities outside of his work. The fact that he became a bug revealed that his family and job already treated him that way. This story really interests me as I think many in our modern-day society are much the same as Gregor. Gregor's transformation showed that he was really just viewed as a "thing" by his family. When he was of no use to them anymore, he was thrown away.

4. What is your working thesis? Keep in mind that "working thesis" means you can slightly modify your thesis for the draft and/or final essay.
(Use the space below to complete this section. Your thesis statement must be ONLY one to two sentences long.)

Gregor Samsa's physical transformation into a vermin is a physical manifestation of his already alienated state and demonstrates how his family viewed him as a thing instead of a son or brother that they loved.

5. What are three key ideas that you will discuss in support of your thesis? *(Write one -- and only one -- sentence for each point.*
- a. Gregor's room reveals that he had no life outside of work.
 - b. Gregor's family does not treat him as a loved son or brother.
 - c. After realizing he is transformed, Gregor is more worried about his ability to earn money than he is about his own well-being.

6. What questions/concerns do you have at this point about your project?
(Use the space below to complete this section. Your response must be 75 to 150 words long.)

One of my concerns is the ability to meet the page requirement. I want to make sure that I fully develop my ideas but stay within the page range without being too wordy and

going over the page limit. I also want to be sure I say enough about each point. I'm also wondering about what kinds of research I will use for this project. I plan to look at the library tutorial for help with the research, and I will submit a draft to the Ashford Writing Center for some extra feedback.



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