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Paper 2

Guidelines

- You are expected to write with a thesis and argument, providing support for your assertions by citing specific quotes or ideas from your reading material. However, quotations should be used discretely to illustrate your argument. Your thesis statement must be underlined or in bold text.
- Make sure to have an original title for the paper.
- Use parenthesis to make in-text citations. A Works Cited page needs to follow the essay. A failure to acknowledge sources through citations constitutes plagiarism.
- The paper is to be **6 pages** in length (not including Works Cited), double-spaced using Times New Roman 12-point font, with one-inch margins. **USE MLA METHOD OF CITATION.** If needed, consult *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed. as a guide.
- Number your pages.
- Your name, the instructor's name, class, section, and date will appear on the top left hand corner of the first page. **NO COVER PAGE.**
- Staple and secure the pages at the top left-hand corner.
- Your paper is due at the **beginning of class on May 1.** Late work will affect your participation grade and I will not accept assignments more than one week late. Do not send your papers as attachments or do not leave them in my mailbox. For your safety they need to be handed to me in person.
- Grades will be based on four equally important criteria: 1) formulation of intellectual problem/response to topic 2) knowledge of subject/content of the course 3) analysis and interpretation 4) clarity of purpose, organization, language, and mechanics.

REMEMBER: There is a difference between unjustified opinion and a persuasive argument. This assignment requires you to **critically analyze** and **interpret** the readings to persuasively argue your points. It is not looking for a mere summary of the material.

Assignment

Pick **one** of these options and write a 6-page paper, exploring the topic deeply and thoroughly, **grounding it closely in the text.** Use textual examples (themes, quotes, etc.) to provide support for your argument or exploration of the topic.

Option 1

Bring *Cracking India* into conversation with *The Home and the World* over the depiction of British colonialism and its legacies of partition in South Asia. In your discussion you may analyze the title using characters, episodes, themes, etc. from the novella to concretely illustrate your answer.

- The papers will gain in-depth analysis if you focus on a few characters/themes/episodes and analyze them in detail. For example, you may episodes that portray British colonialism as well as the legacies or after effects that they left during formal decolonization. Is decolonization completely possible after the formal dissolution of the colonization? What does decolonization mean to formerly colonized populations as they live out the realities of the process?

Option 2

Discuss the significance of the title *Mandela's Earth and Other Poems*. Pick selected poems in the collection to examine the symbolic significance of “Mandela’s Earth” in the context of racial injustice.

- Avoid broad, generalized answers. Pick a few examples so that the discussion is in depth and has close reference to the details in the poems.

Option 3

In *Mandela's Earth and Other Poems* Nigerian playwright Wole Soyinka uses the decades of imprisonment of South African leader Nelson Mandela in apartheid South Africa as iconic of racial injustice against people of African heritage across the world. Rabindranath Tagore’s *The Home and the World* depicts the havoc in South Asia under an ideology of racial supremacy as well. Analyze the central message about leadership in these two texts as you bring them into conversation with each other over the theme of leadership.

- Analyze specific characters to critically examine how these writers propose a better tomorrow by both praising and critiquing leadership styles within revolutions against racial oppression.
- Avoid broad, generalized answers. Pick a few examples so that the discussion is in depth and has close reference to the details in the texts.

Option 4

Both *The Home and the World* and *Cracking India* have come to be recognized as texts that portray women’s negotiations with both the empire and the nation. Bring these two texts into conversation with each other over this central theme by focusing on various stylistic devices in both these texts that bring about this message.

- What kind of images, metaphors, paradoxes, narrative techniques, etc. do the novels use to portray this message? Why? Analyze specific examples to lay out their role in generating a gendered critique of both the empire and the nation



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