

**Paper #1:
Juxtaposition Paper**

So far this semester we have read short stories primarily focusing on gender roles. We have seen how varying authors express these roles in different ways. By comparing/contrasting texts with similar themes and plots, we are made more aware of the underlying meaning and purpose of the texts. By first close reading and then creating an argument that you seek to prove, you will be able to better read, think, and in turn write, critically.

Assignment: Choose any two (2) short stories we have discussed thus far and offer an informed comparison and/or contrast analysis. What do these stories have in common? How are they different? What do these commonalities or differences reveal about the author's purpose, the reader's experience, or the meaning of the works as a whole? Analyze these similarities and differences and consider how each author uses/takes advantage of literary elements to meet their intent and goals. Also, you should consider how the texts you've chosen to work with "speak" to each other in a way that will help you explore and develop the key concepts in your essay. ***Be sure to use textual evidence to support your ideas and avoid simple summarization of each text.***

Choose one of the following paper topics:

- 1.) Both "The Story of an Hour" and "Hills Like White Elephants" address "what if" questions; delving into the possibilities of what life would be like if a different path was chosen. How do these stories deal with the alternative outcomes as expressed by the plot? Are the authors suggesting that one way is preferable to the other? Explain in detail.
- 2.) Discuss gender roles in "Girl" and "Boys." Are these roles overtly expressed by the author(s), or are they more understated? Give clear examples from both texts.
- 3.) Both "I Stand Here Ironing" and "The New Dress" are written in the style of stream-of-consciousness. Explore the reasoning for this particular form. Does the arrangement of each short story mimic the content? To what degree? What is the purpose of each piece in relation to the way it is written?
- 4.) Your choice! Be creative and juxtapose two of the texts we have read so far this semester. Find an overarching commonality/difference that advances the plot and/or narrative of a piece. Your topic must be approved by me by Tuesday, September 27th.

Texts to choose from:

- “The Story of an Hour” by Kate Chopin
- “Hills Like White Elephants” by Ernest Hemingway
- “Boys” by Rick Moody
- “Girl” by Jamaica Kincaid
- “Boys and Girls” by Alice Munroe
- “I Stand Here Ironing” by Tillie Olsen
- “The New Dress” by Virginia Woolf

Due Dates: If you are absent either of these days, please email me your paper by the time class begins. Remember that according to the syllabus, each day a paper is late it drops one letter grade. DO YOUR BEST TO SUBMIT ON TIME!

Rough Draft – Tuesday, October 4, 2016

Final Draft – Tuesday, October 11, 2016

Format: These papers must be 4-5 pages. They must be typed using 12 point Times New Roman or similar font, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins. Please use page numbers and create a title for your paper. Be sure to use parenthetical citations for any reference to the texts.

Grading:

The paper will be worth 200 points and will be graded as follows:

Thesis: The paper presents a clear analysis of both texts and seeks to discover the defining quality that either connects or disconnects each piece –55 points

Evidence: The paper uses compelling supporting evidence to back up its claims, findings, and analysis –50 points

Content: The paper showcases a mastery of the content in the chosen texts –40 points

Format: The paper follows specific formatting directions –30 points

Mechanics: The paper is free from spelling, grammar, and syntactical errors – 20 points

Draft: Submission of first draft – 5 points