CP English 11 -  **In Class Analytical Essay**

Write an essay about the one of the topics that we focused on as we read *The Great Gatsby*. Start with a short general introduction to the book and then go straight to your topic. Your opening paragraph should introduce both the book and the topic. Organize the body paragraphs however makes the most sense to you, but the central questions for the essay are: What did you notice, what did you learn about what you noticed, and **how do these observations connect to a central idea in the book?**

nuts and bolts

* your reader is someone who has not read the book, but your job is not to tell the reader every detail in the book; rather, you are teaching the reader something interesting and new about the book and explaining what needs to be explained to discuss your topic
* you will have time in class to plan on Wednesday and will write the essay in class on Thursday. You may bring one page of notes to class on Thursday to use while you write, but you may not write the essay ahead of time.
* grading criteria includes is listed below. Use it to plan and organize your notes – 100 points

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | excellent | good | acceptable | unacceptable / did not do |
| **introduction**  | **General introduction** – include title (properly punctuated), author, genre, and two sentence summary of the book |  |  |  |  |
| **Important idea / Theme** – introduce and discuss an important idea from the book that connects to your topic |  |  |  |  |
| **Topic** – transition from the important idea / theme to your topic |  |  |  |  |
| **Thesis** – final sentence of your opening paragraph should state what you are going to discuss in your essay – you should be connecting your topic with the important idea / theme that you introduced in this paragraph  |  |  |  |  |
| **body paragraphs** | **Opening and Closing Sentences** – should introduce topics, transition from one topic to the next, and connect ideas to the thesis |  |  |  |  |
| **Organization** – body paragraphs should have clearly defined topics (could be organized around events from the book or around ideas)  |  |  |  |  |
| **Evidence** – from the book should be specific, clearly described, relevant, and accurate |  |  |  |  |
| **Quotations** – should be used strategically: avoid the “I’m using a quotation because I need to use a quotations” sensation. You should lead in to all your quotation and include parenthetical citations with page numbers. Include one or two short quotations in each body paragraph.  |  |  |  |  |
| **Conclusion** – should briefly (no more than one or two sentences) summarize the major points in the essay and then expand to consider the importance of the topic beyond the confines of the text. This is your answer to the “who cares?” question. Do not talk directly about *Gatsby* in the final sentences of your essay.  |  |  |  |  |
| **Ideas** – should be original and reflect a depth and rigor of analysis. Ideas should also be clearly explained and supported with appropriate and relevant evidence from the book. The challenge in this essay is to effectively connect your topic to an important idea in the book. If you simply summarize events from the book that include your topic, you will receive no higher than an 80 on this essay.  |  |  |  |  |
| **Grammar and Mechanics** – essay should be carefully written and edited, taking into account that this is timed, in-class writing.  |  |  |  |  |