

ENG 181: Writing about Science Fiction Literature and Film

Researched Argument

Assignments 4 & 5: Researched argument rough draft and revised final paper

Rough draft (due Thursday, November 12): For your paper proposal, you chose one literary text from our class and developed a working thesis about how that text responds to a social or ethical issue. You also assembled 4-5 sources and explained how you intend to use them in your final paper. For your rough draft, write a 6- to 8-page essay in MLA format, double-spaced 12-point font, with 1-inch margins all around. Your essay should include an introduction that includes a "hook" and important background, a thesis statement, body paragraphs that support your thesis, and a conclusion. In addition:

- Set off your thesis statement in **bold**.
- After your bibliography page, include a 200-word reflection responding to the following questions: What do you think is the strongest element of your paper? What is the weakest?

We will peer review rough drafts in class on the day that they are due.

In an "A" paper:

- The thesis statement is clear, debatable, and original, with clearly established stakes, i.e. a "so what" statement or component.
- The argument is centered on the literary text, rather than the broader general topic, and includes close reading of 1 or 2 key passages from the text.
- Supporting details are persuasive, and the body of the essay is cohesive. Each paragraph bolsters the main argument and builds on what has already been said. Secondary sources and quotes are well integrated, and passages from the primary text are relevant and thoroughly explained.
- The argument shows appropriate level of complexity of topic and opposing views, avoiding generalizations and/or "all-or-nothing" claims.
- Careful editing/proofreading is evident. Language is concise and pleasant to read. Proper in-text citations and correctly formatted essay and bibliographic page.

Final paper (due Tuesday, December 8): Due on the last day of class, the final paper will also be 6–8 pages and will be worth 25% of your final grade. You will revise your rough draft based on feedback both from your classmates and me. After your bibliography page, include a 200- to 300-word reflection explaining the revisions you made and why you made them.

Please submit by email before the start of class on the day that each document is due. Title your document: 181.yourlastname.roughdraft or 181.yourlastname.finalpaper (e.g. 181.Starr.finalpaper). Email with the same subject line.