English 1101

Fall 2022

Comparison Paper

You will be writing a paper comparing three sources related to Bonnie and Clyde. The paper must be 800-1000 words long, will be due on D2L at 11:59 pm on Wednesday, October 5, and will be worth 15 percent of your final grade in ENGL 1101.

Purpose:

This assignment will use the lessons on critical analysis from the second unit and the lessons on rhetorical situation from the first unit. This assignment requires reading from numerous genres, revising, defending a thesis, and writing in Standard Written English, thereby fulfilling four of the course goals.

Task:

Choose three sources from the list at the end of this assignment prompt and compare how these sources tell the story of Bonnie and Clyde. Consider how the rhetorical situation changes for each source and how that, in turn, impacts the way that Bonnie and Clyde are represented.

Your paper should have a clear, original thesis statement. You might argue, for example, that one source is more reliable than another, or that one is more compelling, or that all of the sources exemplify why information shouldn’t always be accepted at face value.

Some useful questions to ask as you plan out your paper:

- What is this source trying to make me believe about Bonnie and Clyde?

- How does the genre of this source affect the story it tells about Bonnie and Clyde?

- Which details does this source focus on?

- Which details does this source overlook?

You should not conduct additional research or consult any sources about Bonnie and Clyde other than the course readings and the material shared in class and on D2L.

Format:

The paper must be 800-1000 words long. It must be double-spaced, typed in 12pt Times New Roman or Arial with 1” margins, and uploaded in Microsoft Word format (.doc, or .docx). It must be submitted online through the Comparison Paper dropbox in D2L.

You should organize your paper in a manner that presents your ideas as persuasively and logically as possible. Your paper should have an introductory paragraph that introduces your thesis, multiple body paragraphs that focus on presenting evidence to support your thesis, and a concluding paragraph that summarizes your argument. Your paper should be written in a formal academic tone and should contain no significant grammatical or mechanical errors.

Quotations and paraphrases must be cited in-text, but the paper does not require a Works Cited page.

Grading Scheme:

An A paper (90-100) contains a strong, well-supported thesis statement, reflects the significance of each source’s rhetorical situation, and demonstrates original, critical thought about the three sources. Quotations and paraphrased information have in-text citations. The paper is written in a formal tone and the writing style is strong (avoiding unnecessary repetition, wordiness, excessive use of “to be” verb, etc). The paper has smooth transitions between ideas, sentences, and paragraphs. There are no significant mechanical errors.

A B paper (80-89) contains an original thesis statement and reflects limited thought regarding each source’s rhetorical situation. Analysis is not as developed as in an A paper. There is some awareness of writing style techniques and there are a few mechanical errors.

A C paper (70-79) does not consider the rhetorical situation critically or contain a strong thesis statement. Observations are generalized rather than analytical. The writing style has not been developed and there are significant mechanical errors. Quotations and paraphrased statements do not have in-text citations. The paper is shorter than 775 words or longer than 1025 words.

A failing paper (69 and lower) does not utilize appropriate sources, contains minimal or no awareness of the rhetorical situation, is incoherent, does not meet the format requirements, and/or contains numerous mechanical errors.

Source List

The three sources you choose must be the following combination: one primary, one secondary, and one popular; two primary and one popular; or one primary and two popular. All of the sources are available on D2L in the Bonnie and Clyde folder.

Primary Sources:

-W.D. Jones, “Voluntary Statement B-71" (1933)

-Wanted Poster (1933)

-Fortune, Fugitives excerpts (1934)

-Bonnie Parker, “The Trail’s End” (c. 1934)

-Atlanta Journal, “Constable Slain, Chief is Kidnapped by 2 Desperadoes” (1934)

-Jamieson Film Co. Documentary (c. 1935)

-Lee Simmons, Assignment Huntsville excerpts (1957)

-W.D. Jones, “Riding with Bonnie & Clyde” (1968)

-Ralph Fults, Running with Bonnie & Clyde excerpts (1996)

Secondary Sources:

-Simpson, “A Bienville Parish Saga”

-Frost and Jenkins, I’m Frank Hamer excerpts

Popular Sources:

-Bonnie and Clyde (1967)

-Serge Gainsbourg, Bonnie and Clyde

-Travis Tritt, Modern Day Bonnie and Clyde

-Jay Z ft. Beyonce, ‘03 Bonnie and Clyde

-Epic Rap Battles of History, “Romeo & Juliet vs. Bonnie & Clyde”

-Takeoff, Last Memory