British Literature and Composition

Mrs. Zickes

Fourth Quarter Writing: Research; Exposition; Argument

Choose one of the following topics and develop into a 3-5 page essay where you expose a truth or argue a point of view (dependent on the topic). Your essay must be word-processed in 12-point font; include academic research, and cite support and/or refutation from at least three sources, as well as text evidence from the novel. Your composition must use MLA formatting for layout and referencing. Use <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/> for formatting guidelines and examples.

In addition to the composition, please prepare a 2 -4 minute presentation of your work which must include visual accompaniment, repetend, and formal speech. Feel free to use varied and creative technologies and mediums for the presentation.

Topics:

To help you get started on this assignment, here are some potential topics, themes, and ideas from *Pride and Prejudice* that you could research and analyze:

1. Perform a character analysis. How does one character relate to another and why is this significant to the novel as a whole? What is one character’s role in the novel?
2. Analyze the setting of the novel. What is Austen trying to tell us about this time period and or the people who live in it?
3. Discuss the topic of Pride and/or Prejudice. What does the novel show the reader about making premature judgments? Which characters are affected by pride and which are not? Who is more successful the proud characters or the humble ones? How does prejudice play a role throughout the novel?
4. Discuss the Genre of *Pride and Prejudice*. What can you say about the type of novel this is, and how has it influenced subsequent works in today’s culture? Romanticism?
5. Does this novel fit into the literary time period in which it was written (Romantic period)? If it does, why? If it does not, why not? Or, is it a hybrid?
6. Is the work reflective of Jane Austen’s life? (this may require you to research Austen a little bit)
7. Both the heroine and hero of Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* journey from proud, judgmental characters to humble, open-minded ones. Chose one or both characters and explain how his or her journey follows the monomyth outlined by Joseph Campbell.
8. Jane Austen first entitled *Pride and Prejudice*  as *First Impressions*. Choose an alternative title you think suits the novel better than the two Austen had and write an argument defending the appropriateness of your new title.
9. Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Bennett, Mr. Collins, and Lady Catherine are humorous characters in *Pride and Prejudice*. Write an essay where you explain this humor as satire. You must define satire in your introduction and provide evidence of Austen’s use of satirical techniques. Also, you must conclude what human foible or failing Austen revealed through satire.
10. Argue your assumption as to Jane Austen’s opinion of marriage in her time. With what can a modern audience identify in her presentation? Is her theme and wisdom valid to today’s readers? Can *Pride and Prejudice* be considered a classic novel of universal appeal?

\*\*These are just a few suggestions to get you thinking. You are welcome to use these, or come up with something all your own. Be sure though, if none of these ideas tickle your fancy, that you check with me before delving into your paper.