**Knowledge Project**

For this project, you will be writing a thematic analysis paper.

Your paper will compare and contrast *Macbeth* with another piece that we read in this class. This means that first you will need to choose a theme from *Macbeth* (knowledge, ambition, etc.), and then choose another story from this course that handles a similar theme.

**Choose one of these stories to compare and contrast Macbeth:**

Beowulf

Gilgamesh and Lord of the Rings

Sundiata

Le Morte d’Arthur

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Chaucer: Knight’s Tale

Don Quixote

The Rape of Lock

Modest Proposal

Gulliver’s Travels

**The focus of your paper should be on how this theme is developed throughout each story.** You should show how the writer uses the plot, characters, sequencing, or other techniques to create a conclusion about this theme. (For example, "Shakespeare uses the genre of tragedy to show us how ambition can lead to an ultimate downfall.") Then, deepen the conversation by adding a comparison and contrast to another piece we read in this class. ("In contrast, the genre of epic glorifies ambition, which we see clearly through the way Beowulf boasts about his strength and then goes on to slay his enemies.")

**Focus on these points:**

* What assertion does the story make about the theme? (Ambition is dangerous. Femininity does not mean weakness or frailty.)
* What techniques does the writer use to create this assertion? (Characters, plot, genre, literary devices, etc.)
* What similarities are there between the themes in the two stories? (Both Macbeth and Beowulf are prime examples of masculinity.)
* What significant differences are there between the themes in the two stories? (Macbeth ultimately destroys his community, his loved ones, and himself; Beowulf uses his strength to save people from a terrible monster.)
* What can we learn about this theme from the comparison and contrast of these two stories? (While we see ambition, strength, and cruelty as essential parts of masculinity in these two stories, it is in the selfishness of the individual that danger lies.)

Your paper must include textual analysis. **Use a minimum of six passages (quotes) from the stories throughout your paper (at least one per story, per body paragraph).**

This essay should be between **two and five pages (500-1250 words)** in length. Your final draft should be saved and submitted as .doc or .pdf file. It should be in 12-point font in Times New Roman.

10% of your grade will be on grammar and mechanics. Write as clearly and correctly as you can. **This means that 90% of your grade is based on your ideas** - however, you will not earn an A if you do not proofread carefully and check for errors.

**You will be writing a thematic analysis paper, comparing and contrasting Macbeth with another piece read in this class, on a specific theme, such as knowledge or ambition.**

**What to Write**

* Introduction
  + Introduce the theme you’ll be analyzing, along with the two stories
* Body Paragraphs
  + Describe the assertions each story makes about the theme
  + Describe the techniques the writer uses to make this assertion
  + Describe similarities between the themes in the two stories
  + Describe differences between the themes in the two stories
  + Include a minimum of six quotes, properly cited
* Conclusion
  + Analyze what can be learned about this theme by comparing these two stories

**Remember To**

* Cite your sources in MLA format.
* Check your grammar and spelling thoroughly (10% of your grade).

**Your paper must have all of the following. If it does not, you will receive an automatic failing grade for not following instructions.**

**● One central theme**

**● A discussion of the theme in ​ Macbeth**

**● A discussion of the theme in another story studied in this course.**

**● Paper focuses on how the theme is developed across each story.**

**● Paper uses comparison and contrast skills.**

**● Paper includes textual analysis (six quotes minimum).**

**● Displays polish (less than a handful of errors throughout the paper).**

**● Displays effort.**