Position Papers and Article Reviews

Writing Your Position Paper

Choose one of the following topics for your paper; then write a position paper in which you base your thesis/argument about how the topic works within its respective texts in explication and use textual evidence to focus your argument and support all your claims.

Topics:

- Role-playing and identity in *The Beekeeper’s Apprentice* and *Kindred*
- Literacy in *Frankenstein* and *Kindred*
- Creator/creation and master/slave relationships in *Frankenstein* and *Kindred*
- Reason and emotion in *The Beekeeper’s Apprentice* and *Frankenstein*
- Knowledge and responsibility in *A Canticle for Liebowitz* and *Frankenstein*

Length: 4-6 pages

Due Dates:
- Topic/working thesis: Friday, April 16 (emailed to me)
- Rough Draft: Monday, April 19
- Peer Response: Wednesday, April 21
- Final Draft: Wednesday, April 28
- Rewrite: Friday, May 14, 1:00 p.m., with portfolio

Writing Your Article Review

Pick a scholarly article, using the UNT library’s databases, that addresses the topic you’ve chosen to write about in your synthesis paper for one of the works we’ve read this semester.

Your article review should contain three parts:

- A summary of the article’s thesis and the textual support the author uses to support that thesis
- An evaluation of the thesis and the textual support for the thesis
- A brief discussion of how (or if) the article’s thesis and the thesis of your synthesis paper relate to one another

Sample thesis summary:

In *Spectacular Politics: Theatrical Power and Mass Culture in Early Modern England*, Paula R. Backscheider examines the historical relationship between the rise of mass culture and the theater by considering “literature as pleasing experience, civic discourse, and hegemonic apparatus” (xi). Backscheider singles out drama as the particular locus for civic discourse because of drama’s connections to governmental ceremony and drama’s growth as a popular entertainment.

Sample textual support:

In Part I: *Charles II’s London as National Theater*, Backscheider discusses the ways in which Charles II used public ceremony—his coronation, his progresses—to re-establish monarchy as an absolute ideal.

Sample evaluation:

While, throughout *Spectacular Politics*, Backscheider provides numerous examples to support her claim that Restoration and Eighteenth-Century drama represents an unprecedented forum for mass culture and public discourse, she, in large part, fails to address questions of gender and authorship within a larger historical context . . . In Part III, Backscheider discusses how disruptions of civil power affect notions of authority—and, by extension, authorship—but fails to discuss how these disrupted notions of authority and authoring bear on anxieties about originality and creativity raised in later Romantic works such as Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*.

Length: 600-700 words (minimum)

Due Dates:
- Article: Wednesday, April 21
- Final draft: Monday, May 3
- Rewrite: Friday, May 14, 1:00 p.m. with your portfolio