November 6, 2017

Professor Allison MacLeod

English 101 (24514)

**Research Paper Prompt – 200 points –**

*No element of this assignment will be accepted if late.*

The essays you have written this semester have analyzed the texts we have been studying. This essay, your research paper, will springboard from Art Spiegleman’s *MAUS*, but the topic you choose will expand beyond the pages of the text. In some cases, your introductory paragraph will explain how the topic relates to *MAUS*, and that will be the only mention of it. In other cases, you will want to refer to *MAUS* in your body paragraphs. It depends on the topic you choose.

Topics:

1. Guilt – survivors and the children of survivors.
2. The Nuremberg laws (you may note similarities to Jim Crow laws).
3. The controversy surrounding the depiction of the Holocaust in *MAUS,* and its place in the Canon of Holocaust Literature
4. How the historical roots of oppression affect the lives of people today.
5. In her diary, Ann Frank writes, “In spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart. I simply can’t build up my hopes on a foundation consisting of confusion, misery, and death. I see the world gradually being turned into a wilderness, I hear the ever approaching thunder, which will destroy us too, I can feel the sufferings of millions and yet, if I look up into the heavens, I think that it will all come right, that this cruelty too will end, and that peace and tranquility will return again.” In *Maus,* morality and ethics seem fragile which brings up the question of whether there is any inherent good in human beings after all. Research ethical behavior in circumstances where survival is at stake.
6. The history of comic books in the 20th century.
7. *MAUS*: How the animals work as characters; how the text and graphic elements work together; Spiegelman’s process; etc.
8. The genesis of *MAUS.*
9. Propoganda
10. Concentration Camps

REQUIREMENTS:

* 4-6 PAGES (not including Works Cited)
* MLA Format
* 5 outside sources

Due November 18: Research Paper Proposal, 40 points

Requirements:

* MLA Format
* 1-2 pages
* In a paragraph, state the topic you have chosen to write about and why this topic interests you.
* What theme/s of this topic will you be exploring? ex: If choose to write about the Holocaust, pick one aspect of this tragic event that is depicted in MAUS.
* What will the focus of your research be? Where will you look for potential sources. BE SPECIFIC!

Due November 25: Annotated Bibliography, 40 points.

An annotated bibliography is a Works Cited page where each citation is followed by a brief descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the **annotation**. The purpose of the **annotation** is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited. (see Canvas Research Paper page for an example).

Due December 3: - 120 points -Final Draft of Research Paper with Works- Cited.

You will be writing an analytical, as opposed to argumentative, research paper. The major difference between the two research paper types is made in the process of writing, or presenting the topic. Analytical papers create a balanced, neutral approach to presenting a snapshot of an overall topic from which you draw conclusions, and argumentative papers create a debate between differing sides with a logical argument that favors one side of an argument over another.

Forming a research question is the basis of an analytical research paper. The question is neutral and provides direction for you to evaluate and explore the topic as it relates to answering the question. Your thesis statement presents the research question, and the remainder of your paper supports your thesis.

This type of research paper is not a simple regurgitation of information. Instead, it is your thoughts, conclusions and evaluations of a topic that is backed up with logical information. Several things are vital in formulating an analytical research paper:

* You answer the research questions objectively.
* You have no preconceived notions or opinions about the topic.
* You evaluate the topic and draw conclusions from factual information from reliable sources.
* You piece findings together to present the purpose of the paper.
* You use serious contemplation and a critical evaluation to answer the research question.

Begin with Research -Unlike the essays you have been writing, the research must happen before you start writing.

Outline - Outlining your paper is necessary to organize your thoughts, and your research.

Thesis Statement - Because your assignment asks a specific question, turn the question into an assertion and give reasons why it is true or reasons for your opinion.

Writing a draft. Drafting is one of the last stages in the process of writing a research paper. No drafting should take place without a research question or thesis statement; otherwise, the student will find himself writing without a purpose or direction. Think of the research question or thesis statement as a compass. The research the student has completed is a vast sea of information through which he must navigate; without a compass, the student will be tossed aimlessly about by the waves of sources. In the end, he might discover the Americas (though the journey will be much longer than needed), or—and what is more likely—he will sink.