ENGL 1102
ESSAY #2 REQUIREMENTS

- Due Thursday, March 30 at the beginning of class
- 4-5 FULL pages (does not include works cited page)
- Standard MLA format
- Title, works cited page
- Typed, double-spaced, proper margins, 12-point font, Times New Roman
- Use specific quotations from the text with accompanying analysis
- Incorporate one scholarly source. This must come from a UWG library database or the information that you gather (through note-taking) during the Reading/Q&A event with Dr. Alison Umminger on March 9 at 7:00 p.m. in Campus Center Ballroom 108.1. Attendance is MANDATORY for this event.
- Standard rules of paragraph construction (i.e. topic sentences, supporting quotations, appropriate transitions)
- Essay should be guided by an argumentative/analytical thesis statement

Prompt: Recall the conversations that we’ve had (or will have) in class centered on recurring topics or tropes available for analysis in American Girls. These include (but are not limited to):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Babies &amp; Pregnancy/Motherhood</th>
<th>Cults</th>
<th>Beauty/Attitudes about Beauty</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Sluttiness”</td>
<td>Threats of Danger</td>
<td>Systems of “Code”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Names</td>
<td>Agency &amp; Power</td>
<td>Crime</td>
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<td>Acting</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Bullying</td>
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<tr>
<td>Locations/Spaces</td>
<td>Relationships</td>
<td>Families</td>
</tr>
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<td>Drugs</td>
<td>Homes</td>
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For this essay, it is your job to consider ONE of these topics/tropes (or any other that you have noticed that isn’t listed here) and construct an introduction and an argumentative thesis for how your chosen trope functions in the text – what it’s doing, and why it matters.

Once again, you’ll be crafting your essay according to the 3-led Monster model. In each of your body paragraphs, you will focus on a specific DETAIL – where you see an example of your trope showing up in the text – which supports the initial claim you are espousing in your thesis. It’s your job to fully analyze the detail and show how it supports your overall argument. Your analysis should comprise around 80 percent of your body paragraphs. This is the most important part, where you provide several interpretations of what your claim and evidence might mean.

Finally, you will finish your paper with a conclusion that revisits and reemphasizes your thesis.

*** Quotations from your secondary text should work to establish the context through which you would like your paper to be read. This source should strengthen YOUR argument, not the other way around. Both primary and secondary sources should be listed alphabetically on the Works Cited page. ***

A few reminders:
- You will turn in a hard copy of the essay AND submit it to the CourseDen dropbox for plagiarism detection.
- DO NOT E-MAIL ESSAYS TO ME. I WILL NOT ACCEPT THEM.
- If there is an emergency in which an extension is needed, you must discuss it with me at least 24 hours in advance (via e-mail or face-to-face meeting) to work out when you will turn it in.
- Essays will be docked a letter grade each day they are late.
- I WILL NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, ACCEPT ESSAYS ANY LATER THAN THREE DAYS AFTER THE ORIGINAL DUE DATE.
Grading: Your grade for this essay will be based on the following three areas:
I) Content, II) Organization, and III) Presentation.

I. Content: Your grade will be based heavily on the following three major content issues: (1) your accuracy – clearly and accurately describing relevant aspects of the novel, including direct quotations; (2) your thesis and claims – clearly and convincingly state your assertions, support them with evidence, and thoroughly defend them; and (3) your conclusion(s) – clearly and thoughtfully expand the discourse on this topic by suggesting an important area for further inquiry or by discussing the larger implications of this issue.

II. Organization: Your paper must follow a cohesive template that establishes your argument, develops your ideas about the novel, and then closes the argument nicely.
- Your introductory paragraph should introduce the title of the novel and its author and give an attention-grabbing perspective to establish the area of interrogation; you must end this paragraph with a clear statement of your own position (thesis statement).
- The two body paragraphs will each focus on particular aspects of the novel that relates to your thesis statement. Begin with a topic sentence followed by evidence that supports your position and by a detailed explanation of why/how that evidence supports your position.
- Your conclusion paragraph should take the discussion a step further. One way to approach this: given what you’ve discussed about the novel, what type of further inquiry is needed for a fuller understanding of this issue? Why? Another way to approach this: Given what you’ve discussed about the issue, what are the larger implications of your argument about this novel? Why does this issue matter?

III. Presentation: Your paper must meet established expectation of college-level academic writing.
- Standard Written English: Your writing assignment must conform to standard written English. This includes correct grammar and punctuation, clarity of sentences and ideas, and appropriate rhetorical choices (with considerations of audience, purpose, etc.)
- Documentation: All quotations, paraphrases, and summaries must be documented using MLA format. In addition, your Works Cited page needs to conform to MLA guidelines.
- Format: Your writing assignment should conform to MLA style guidelines: Times New Roman font, size 12; one-inch margins, correct paper info. Failure to meet this requirement will result in a 1/2 letter grade reduction of the final essay grade.