ENGL 1102
ESSAY #3 REQUIREMENTS

- Due Thursday, April 27 at the beginning of class
- At least 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 two scholarly sources. This must come from a UWG library database
- Standard rules of paragraph construction (i.e. topic sentences, supporting quotations, appropriate transitions)
- Essay should be guided by an argumentative/analytical thesis statement

Choose ONE of the following topics:

1. Throughout the semester, we have discussed how elements of popular culture like comedy and music can comment on emotion and identity, as well as connect to larger cultural issues such as race, class, sexuality, etc. Consider how this occurs in Sing Street, Fight Club, or another film of your choice, and construct a specific argument discussing how the film addresses one of these topics and to what purpose.

2. Sing Street and Fight Club make some interesting points – both overtly and subtextually – about traditional gender roles and societal expectations of masculinity. Construct a specific argument discussing how one of these films (or another of your choosing) addresses these concepts. Use the Semiotic Iceberg handout as you analyze specific scenes, discuss how masculinity and/or femininity are depicted, and explain why this is important.

3. Throughout Sing Street and Fight Club, many of the films’ major themes are communicated through key scenes. Incorporating what you’ve learned about mise-en-scene, perform a close reading of ONE scene from one of these films (or another of your choosing) and argue how it successfully serves as a thesis statement for the entire movie.

Note: If you decide to write about a different film, I must approve your choice in advance. Submit a proposal that includes the name of your film, a brief summary, and a working thesis statement ASAP.

In addition, the secondary sources you incorporate should strengthen YOUR argument. You should not build your essay from your sources. Doing so is plagiarism, which will result in a zero on the assignment. (Don’t forget to list your sources alphabetically on the Works Cited page).

A few reminders:

- You don’t have to turn in a hard copy. Simply submit the essay through the CourseDen dropbox.
- Do not e-mail essays to me. I won’t 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.