

Medvecky
English 224

D2L Post Assignment #2

Overview

After evaluating the first round of D2L posts, I spent class time Tuesday urging people to be more interactive with each other. Looking at both the content and the metrics, I see that only a small percentage of people are reading all the posts, while most people are looking at a just few others besides their own. Some people are not reading anyone's thoughts but their own. While I am happy that people are engaging with the text in their own ways, I see that we are getting a lot of repetition and not a lot of progression. That is, we could be doing a better job of working together as a class to deepen our understanding of Hemingway's work and its significance.

Assignment

This week I would like for people to get more in conversation with the ideas of others. I mentioned in class that one strategy for fulfilling your post requirements is to reply to your peers, thus working collaboratively to advance each others' thoughts.

For your Week 2 post, go back into the Hemingway discussion board and *reply to at least two of your peers*. These replies should be substantive (paragraphs not sentences). Engage with their ideas. Understand and interpret what they are saying and look for places in the text that both support and challenge those notions. Introduce more textual evidence in the form of quotations or paraphrase from the remainder of the book. Add your own analytical and interpretative thoughts to the matter under discussion. Also, try to construct a post that moves from general observations about say, Hemingway's style, to specific examples, to hypotheses about why this matters to readers of Hemingway's day or our day. Locate your ideas in relation to the ideas of the person to whom you are responding. Also, we have studied a fair amount of Modernism and New Historicism. Now is the time to start making connections outward from the text to society. Begin to explain and explore your sense of Hemingway's social significance. In short, explain why what you have observed might matter and to whom?

Bear in mind that this is not busy work. These are the skills of critical writing, which you will need to exhibit in your papers later in the term. If we work well together, D2L will be a rich archive of passages and interpretative strategies from which to draw in constructing your term papers. And that will make everyone's life easier.

Due Monday Feb 7, no later than 11:59 pm.

Overview

Recently we have been looking at how scholars of English combine close-reading a text with an analysis of the context in which a work is either read or written. In the process of presenting both kinds of evidence, they attempt to arrive at an interpretation of a text that discusses various ways that text matters socially, either to past audiences or present or both.

Close reading of the text means working with the details of the book itself. Quotes, passages, scenes, summaries and paraphrases give a detailed analysis of character and story. Identifying historical context means occasionally connecting details from the outside world back to the text. For example, one might compare and contrast Hemingway's prose style with the prose style of today's social networking environments. In the process that writer might write an paper that explores the influence of literary Modernism on the social media of the 21st century *through* Hemingway's text. Alternatively, a writer may undertake a more traditional approach. By sticking more closely to the text the second writer might examine a symbol or theme in relation to the details of an historical context. For example, this writer might look at how images of war, battle and fighting play into this ostensibly Romantic tale and thereby connect Hemingway's experience as a war correspondent to his particular vision of love in the early 20th century.

The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate that you can read a text closely in the context of an on-going literary discussion as befits an emerging member of the field of English Studies. Your goal is also to show your ability to explore critical ideas and use the work of others to deepen and contextualize your own close-reading within a frank and self-conscious discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of any approach.

Assignment

Write a thesis-driven essay, that explores one of the texts that we have read thus far in relation to an historical context. In your writing, include not only your own ideas but the ideas of others. You may draw from the critical readings, the class discussion, the lectures, or the discussion on D2L as a source for other voices and ideas. As described above, your analysis and interpretation should address both context and content. Assume your audience has not read the work you are writing about, nor are they experts in history or biography. Your audience is inquisitive. They want to know not only what you know, but how you know it. Show them the evidence for your claims. Finally, writers should attempt to work holistically with their texts. That is, whether you choose to work on a novel, a character, or a theme your reading should address all the major moments in the development of that motif over the course of the whole text.

Please present 6-7 double-spaced pages in 12 point Times New Roman font with one inch margins. In addition, please include an MLA formatted Works Cited page.

DUE: In class, Thursday, March 17th.