**Character Analysis Assignment**

11-12 American Literature

Primary Text: *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Description: An essay that analyzes a character in *The Scarlet Letter.* The essay needs to be thesis-driven and interpretative, meaning it needs to make a clear, focused, and meaningful claim about a character and then support the claim with evidence from the text (see handout on “Arguments about Literature”).

Length: 2-3 pages, MLA format

Ways to approach the project:

1. Identify a character who interests you or an aspect of a character you would like to explore further.
2. Describe the character. Consider the following:
   1. Physical description – What do they look like?
   2. Motivations – What drives them?
   3. Beliefs – What is their view of the world? Their understanding of God?
   4. Emotions – What are they feeling? How do certain situations affect them emotionally?
   5. Actions – What do they do? Why might the narrator be highlighting certain actions?
   6. Dialogue – What do they say? What do their conversations say about them as a character?
3. Note character development.Pay attention to how the character changes throughout the story and consider what this might mean. What is significant about the change?
4. Develop an interpretative claim about the character and support it with evidence from the text. This claim will be your thesis.
5. Support your thesis with evidence from the text. Remember to use the PEAS model of paragraph construction:
   1. Point – a claim that supports your thesis; a reason your thesis is true
   2. Evidence – passages from the text (either summarized or quoted) that support the point (P)
   3. Analysis – your explanation of how the evidence (E) supports the point (P)
   4. So what? – explanation of how the point (P) supports the thesis; why is the point significant?
6. Note: Do not attempt a comprehensive summary of the character’s actions, dialogue, motivations, etc. Select and focus on significant passages that support your claim.

Resource: “How to Write a Character Analysis” <http://teachingcollegeenglish.com/2008/02/28/how-to-write-a-character-analysis-and-a-personnel-review/>

Due dates:

* 1. **Rough Draft: Monday, March 1, 2021**
  2. **Final Draft: Monday, March 8, 2021**