

Ms. Cyndi Headley, Teaching Associate
headley@email.arizona.edu
English 101—Fall 2009
Sections 209 and 219

PAPER 2-a textual analysis

4-5 pages (1000-1250 words), MLA format.

The prompt: Analyze an aspect of Twelfth Night, creating a thesis driven argument that reveals many of the structural elements of the play: its claims, definitions, support, values, and rhetorical strategies employed to persuade an audience.

Consider one (or more) of the following questions as you brainstorm and draft:

- What does “structural elements” mean, especially in terms of the genre (drama)?
- What are the text’s “claims”? What does the author want me to think, believe, or feel?
- How does the author support his/her claims? Is he convincing?
- What are the author’s values? How do I know?
- What rhetorical strategies does the author employ?

Some reminders:

- Your thesis should be specific and disputable—what do you want your readers to learn about the text after they have finished reading your paper?
- Use PIE regularly (not necessarily always) in your body paragraphs
- Typed, double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, one inch margins
- “Analyze” means to dig beneath the surface—why does the author use a particular word, phrase, etc., and why is that word, phrase, etc., where it is in the text. Is the word choice effective? Why or why not?
- The questions why and how, rather than what, will get you far. Avoid telling your readers what happened in the text.
- *Title* your paper creatively. Paper 2 is NOT a title.

As you did with paper 1, continue to think about your writing process to make it work better for you. We will continue to revisit your writing process throughout the semester, and you will likely write about it in your portfolio reflection. Your writing process includes, but is not limited to:

- What brainstorming process works well for you?
- How do you arrive at a thesis statement?
- How do you revise?
- What physical conditions do you require as you write (e.g. quiet, music, food)

HAVE FUN, AND DON'T FORGET, YOU ROCK.