***Ethan Frome* Collaborative Essay Assignment**

**DUE Tuesday, February 19th – NO LATER THAN 9:59 PM**

**Skills Focus:**

**Writing:**

--Formulating a strong, clear, interesting thesis

--Logical progression/smooth transition

--Elements of persuasive writing

**Analysis:**

--Using quotes as support, not just to replace your own words

**Editing:**

--Recognizing and strengthening weak areas of your argument

--Avoiding/correcting passive sentences (limit linking verbs)

--Including sophisticated sentence structure

**Your task:**

**1.** Choose a partner from one of the Humanities I classes. You may have three per group if you want (but each added partner makes the assignment that much more difficult).

**2.** With your partner, choose a prompt from the attached sheet.

**3.** Together, create a plan for developing and proving your thesis. You will write the essay as a team. Each partner is responsible for roughly half (or if you have 3, a third) of the final essay.

**4.** Write your essay together on GoogleDocs (see the instructions). You can both be working on the essay simultaneously, or you can work at different times. Be sure you identify which worker is which color! You can do this on your heading, putting each person’s name in the corresponding color.

**5.** You can do this entire assignment online together, although you might want to touch base in person now and then in class.

**6.** I will check your progress next Monday, January 30th. You should be pretty well along at that point, at least halfway (so I’ll be looking for at least a page, maybe even two, with both of your colors in roughly equal amounts).

**7.** The final essay must include– at the **minimum** – an introduction, a conclusion, and a body paragraph for each partner. [NOTE: You don’t have to each do a separate paragraph; you can write each paragraph as a team if you want, but if you have 2 partners, you need at least 2 body paragraphs; if you have 3 partners, at least 3 body paragraphs]You may have a longer paper than that, of course. How you divide up the work is your business, as long as each partner pulls his/her own weight.

**8.** If you’re struggling with this assignment, ASK FOR HELP!! Don’t wait until it’s too late to let me know you’re having a problem.

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**Your rubric will be based primarily on the skills focus items. Both partners will earn the same grade, unless one partner does not pull his/her weight. Any partner who does less than 30% of the work (or less than 25% in a 3 person group) will not receive a passing grade:**

* Strength and clarity of thesis
* Logical progression of argument
* Effective textual support
* Evidence of content revision to strengthen argument *(I’ll check revision history on googledocs)*
* No more than **5 linking verbs total** in the final draft of the essay *(not counting direct quotes)*
* Correct usage of sentence structure patterns with the sentences labeled: (2) complex sentences, (1) present participial phrase, (1) compound-complex sentence
* Correct MLA formatting
* Development and page requirement (group of 2 should have: 2 ½ —3 pages; groups of 3 should have: 3 ½ —4 pages)

***Ethan Frome* Collaborative Essay Assignment Prompts**

1. **Prompt 1—** A recurring theme in literature is the classic war between a passion and responsibility. For instance, a personal cause, a love, a desire for revenge, a determination to redress a wrong, or some other emotion or drive may conflict with moral duty. In the novel, Ethan confronts the demands of a private passion that conflicts with his responsibilities. In a well-written essay show clearly the nature of the conflict, its effects upon the character, and its significance to the work.
2. **Prompt 2—** Edith Wharton often wrote stories about people who were trapped by the moral strictures of society and were thus unhappy; she herself spent more than twenty years in a loveless marriage in which she had become involved in order to please her parents. How does Ethan Frome reflect this favorite theme of the author? How and in what ways would you describe the protagonist as being trapped by the society in which he lived?
3. **Prompt 3—** To what extent do you consider the protagonist of Edith Wharton’s *Ethan Frome* to be a good man? What are his outstanding moral strengths and moral weaknesses? Which of these ultimately dominate his character? Support your conclusions with details from the novel.
4. **Prompt 4—** Discuss the role of Zeena’s hypochondria in Edith Wharton’s *Ethan Frome*. In what ways does she demonstrate the power of weakness in manipulating others? In what other ways does her desire for power in the relationship show up in the course of the story? Be sure to consider the Epilogue as well as the body of the novel.
5. **Prompt 5—**Discuss the role of suffering in Edith Wharton’s *Ethan Frome*. Which of the three main characters suffers the most? Why do you think so? In supporting your conclusion, be sure to indicate why the two characters you have not chosen fail to rate the distinction of being the most pitiable victims.

**Instructions for making your collaborative essay**

1. One person in your pair (or trio) creates the Google Doc to share with others.

2. It will prompt you to name the document prior to sharing, please name is as all the names of your group members. (i.e. Sally Sunshine and Lucy Goosey Collaborative)

3. Click the BLUE SHARE button in the top right corner. List your partner(s) AND my email address so that this document is shared (glennda.bayron@apps.wylieisd.net).

4. Give both your partner(s) and me permission to edit so that both of you can work on the same document, and then I can comment directly on your essay.

5. You and your partner(s) need to each choose a color to work in. All of your text should be in that color. So your essay will be a two-color or three-color extravaganza! That way you both (and I) know who is responsible for what portion of the essay.

6. Together, you need to coordinate how you will share the job of writing the essay. If you want to write every other sentence, flipping back and forth, that’s fine. If you want to share the jobs of introduction and conclusion, and then each of you take a body paragraph, that’s fine, too.

7. If you go into someone else’s sentence or paragraph and make a change, be sure you do it in your color so that they know a change has been made. If they hate it, they may change it back! That’s for you two (or three) to work out…

8. On the day it’s due, send me a PDF of the essay. DO NOT SEND ME A GOOGLE DOC (If you don't know how to do this, you might want to look it up.) Make sure that I have it by 9:59 PM.

***Ethan Frome* Collaborative Essay Rubric**

**ORGANIZATION & THESIS**

❏ 15—Clear, logical, fluid and includes artful transitions; focused on thesis

❏ 12—Logical; structured with smooth transitions; infrequent lapses from thesis

❏ 10—Present, but there may be some confusion; mediocre connection to thesis

❏ 5—Flawed; does not follow a recognizable structure; weak control; connection to thesis is weak or nonexistent

**CRITICAL THINKING**

❏ 15—Insightful, meaningful; demonstrates writer’s ability to discuss and clearly analyze with insight, understanding, and control

❏ 12—Less thorough, less incisive, or less specific; demonstrates writer’s ability to analyze

literary work, but reveal a more limited understanding than higher papers

❏ 10—Safe, plastic, superficial; reveals simplistic thinking and/or immature writing with thin, commonplace information that addresses prompt

❏ 5—Misinterpretations, underdeveloped or misguided; paraphrase and plot-summary at the expense of analysis

**FACTUAL CONTENT**

❏ 15—Skillful use of excellent concrete detail selection; documented correctly

❏ 12—Good concrete detail selection; documented correctly

❏ 10—Acceptable use of concrete detail selection; documented correctly

❏ 5—Weak and/or flawed concrete detail selection; doesn’t support topic sentence / question

**SENTENCE VARIETY / DICTION**

❏ 15—Excellent, critical use of varied sentence structure; powerful, excellent word choice

used correctly; wording is obviously well chosen; 0-5 linking verbs in final copy

❏ 12—Good variety; good word choice used correctly which emphasizes the point; between 6-10 linking verbs in final copy

❏ 10—Limited with simple sentences; average, ordinary word choice or odd word choice;

diction may be marred by repetitions and imprecision; 11-15 linking verbs in final copy

❏ 5—Sentences are awkward, ambiguous, and/or confusing / little if any sentence variety;

simple word choice; words used incorrectly; slang; odd phrasing; 16-20 linking verbs in final copy

**MECHANICS / REVISION**

❏ 15—Superior paper with stylistic flair that expresses ideas with clarity and skill; excellent

grammar, punctuation, spelling; works reflects a great deal of thinking and revision

❏ 12—Minimal / insignificant mechanical errors that do not detract from meaning; final work reflects some revision

❏ 10—Mechanics and/or legibility is a consistent problem; repeats may be a concern

❏ 5—Essay is hard to understand due to grammar, mechanics, and/or legibility; evidence of careful proofreading is scanty, or nonexistent.

Grammar Focus from Mechanics Monday:

MLA format (5): \_\_\_\_\_

Development/page length (5): \_\_\_\_\_

Growth as a writer (15): \_\_\_\_\_

**GRADE:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_