

Courage Paper



Consider the following works:

Beowulf, *Grendel*, *Brave New World*

Paper Assignment:

1. Typed, double-spaced, using MLA rules for quoting and paraphrasing, etc. Three to five pages. You must include quotes (correctly cited) from *A Small Treatise of the Great Virtues* and whatever work/works you choose.
2. Choose one or more of the above works and find a question or problem or values dilemma or interpretive conflict that engages you, and explore it in your own way incorporating the theme of courage.
3. The essay is due on Friday, March 30th. Please start early and revise often. Make sure you have ink and your printer works before the due date.
4. Start with particular passages, scenes, imagery, etc., and let the conceptual or thematic argument grow out of those specifics. Be interesting and entertaining—have a creative title, a reader-engaging first paragraph. Since this is an essay about literature, try to involve your reader intellectually and emotionally. Write in your own voice, *conversationally-formal*.

Suggestions: Feel free to use or strike out on your own. *Be Brave!*

1. Whom do you side with in a work and how does your decision relate to the theme of courage? Analyze specific passages, scenes, or patterns of imagery and thereby show the reader what courage means to you.
2. Do a character analysis starting with specific passages where their essential nature becomes clear, and then explain why you deeply admire and sympathize with them or why you find them horrible, downright destructive human beings. Relate to the theme of courage.
3. Explain how a character is ambivalent about being a hero and how that complicates the literature.
4. Examine specific passages and scenes where the theme of love emerges and explain what the author is saying about that theme on all levels—friendship, marriage, courtship, etc.
5. Gather evidence from all the works and find a common thread of courage in certain situations.

This assignment is difficult. I know that. But you will be surprised how creative your papers turn out, and you will be proud of them!

While I am not assigning specific days for preliminary work, I will expect to see some thesis statements and rough draft ideas within a week.

Thesis: Due Monday (One sentence)

Brief Outline: