The Great Gatsby Character Portraits/MLA Research Project

Characterization is crucial to a full appreciation and understanding of Fitzgerald's proposition regarding the values and state of American society. Each major character performs a critical role in the author's argument that American values are devoid of substance, resulting in the unfortunate consequence of class struggle.

Objectives:

1. Locate primary and secondary sources providing information related to one major character from the novel. Your information must come from at least three different sources:
   a. The Great Gatsby—primary source
   b. Literary criticism(s) about the character—secondary source
   c. Books, journals, articles, etc. that provide information connecting your character to the historical context of 1920s—secondary source
   d. NoodleTools: Create a Works Cited entry for each source (don't forget to remove/delete any sources that you do NOT include in your documented research paper).

2. Conduct research:
   a. Locate a minimum of ten primary passages and/or quotations from the novel which definitively show who the character is and what he/she is all about.
   b. Locate a minimum of five quotations from literary criticism(s) that provide additional relevant analysis/insight into the character.
   o Locate a minimum of five quotations from secondary sources that connect the character to the 1920s (consider history, sociology, fashion, industry, etc.). How does she/he capture the essence of the era?
   c. NoodleTools: Create a Note Card for each passage/quotation you select and include an explanation that justifies the inclusion of this information in your project.
   d. NoodleTools: Create a shared Google Doc that you, your partner, and your teacher can all access and edit.

3. Type and bullet-list your research findings under the following headings and provide a correctly formatted MLA parenthetical citation for each piece of information (a minimum of twenty citations):
a. Primary Source: A Depiction of the Character
b. Literary Criticism: Analysis of the Character
c. Historical Connection: The Character as a Representative of the 1920s

4. Include a typed, properly formatted (MLA guidelines) Works Cited page as the final page in your product. Adhere to MLA guidelines for the heading, pagination, margins, and spacing.

5. Visual Rhetoric: Character Portraits - sample for inspiration

Lesson Plan
The Great Gatsby Character Portraits

Summary

Subject(s): ELA and Photography
Grade/Level: AP LANG 11

Objective: Characterization is crucial to a full appreciation and understanding of Fitzgerald's proposition regarding the values and state of the American society in the 1920's. Each major character performs a critical role in the author's argument that American values are devoid of substance, resulting in the unfortunate consequence of the class struggle. Choose a character and create “then and now” character portraits based on your research and digital instruction...

“Then” portrait should capture your character’s identity, emotion, symbolism, thematic significance, and social commentary of the American dream in the 1920's.

“Now” portrait should illustrate your character’s identity, emotion, symbolism, thematic significance, and social commentary on the American dream today.

Additional Sample Elements to Consider for Integration
Social Status
Socioeconomic Status
Goals & Dreams
Motives
Identity
Emotions
Symbolism
Thematic Significance
Social Commentary/American Dream
Procedure

Digital Image (iPhoto and editing apps)

Two 14x20” printed portraits

Learning Context

Include literary criticism and historical background information in relation to the character.

What is the American dream today? How has it changed from the 1920’s.

Demonstrate effective composition, craftsmanship, and inventiveness to convey your character's reflection of the American Dream in 1920s vs. 2010s.

Assessment

Visual Rubric:

Composition: 20 points

1) Create artworks incorporating the following compositional guidelines (simplicity, rule of thirds, leading lines, balance, framing).

2) Photographers captured their subject's emotion, personality, and/or expression in the photograph (characterization).

Craftsmanship: 30 points

1) Demonstrate an understanding of proper lighting and shooting techniques.

2) Subject and surrounding reflect historical time period and show distinctive interpretations of the American dream in the 1920s and 2010s.

3) Product demonstrates strategic planning and attention to detail

Inventive Thinking: 20 points

1) Find creative answers to visual problems using lighting, camera techniques, composition, etc.

2) Show creativity in your approach to the characterization of a Gatsby character in two different time periods.
Presentation Rubric:

**Presence**
- eye contact
- physical organization & body language
- interaction with the audience
- poise

**Language Skills**
- uses accurate terminology
- clear & engaging speech

**Organization**
- presentation is coordinated
- follows a logical order
- all members contribute

**Mastery of the Subject**
- holistic understanding of the character
- pertinent historical background information in relation to the character
- appearance, personality, social status, symbolism, thematic significance, and social commentary

**Overall Impression**
- engaging, insightful, and convincing
- argument: character's representation of American Dream “then & now”

Total _________/ 30