**GENRE, CONTEXT, and CONAN DOYLE: A LITERATURE REVIEW ESSAY**

**Requirements:**

* Page Length: 4-5 pages
* Format: MLA (double spaced, header on first page top right with last name and page number, title; MLA in-text citations and Works Cited at end)
* Use at least FOUR (4) scholarly sources (make sure to use MLA citation)
* Use at least ONE (1) Conan Doyle text to exemplify points made by the scholars (*The Sign of the Four* or one of the short stories—you can use more than one CD text)
* Main purpose of the essay: to review what scholars have written about a specific topic relating to the mystery (or detective story) genre, and about the classical phase of the genre (when it was developed and became popular) during the late Victorian era.

**Basic structure for the essay:**

1. Introduction:

* Introduce your topic in an interesting way
* Introduce the Conan Doyle text(s) you will be using excerpts from to develop your point by providing some details of rhetorical situation and brief plot summary
* Make some broad, general statements about what the scholars have written about your topic (and/or the sub-topics you’ll be analyzing)
* Provide a “controlling idea” that holds together your review of the literature (this is the thing that you bring to the table based on your close observation and reading of the scholarly texts and the Conan Doyle text—this statement should SYNTHESIZE and not just SUMMARIZE

2. Development Paragraphs:

* Aim to have somewhere between 3 and 5 development paragraphs (depending on how many sub-points you have identified about your controlling idea)
* In each paragraph, summarize, paraphrase, and quote from the scholarly sources and from the CD text
* Don’t just report on what each scholar says, put the scholars “into conversation.” If they were all in a room together, how would their conversation about your topic go? Do the make the same point? Do they agree? Disagree? Does one cover the topic more fully than another? Does one use different terms than the other?
* Use excerpts from the CD text to exemplify the points made by the scholars
* The first time you mention each source, introduce it with a signal phrase that tells your reader something about the credibility of the writer
* Each paragraph should cover one point (a sub-point about your topic)
* Use transitions between paragraphs

3. Conclusion

* Return to your main idea and restate it (in different words) in the conclusion
* Remember that the main focus of this essay is to better understand the mystery (or detective story) genre and how it came into being during the Victorian era with Conan Doyle; consider using the stages of genre development (on the home page of the studio) to address this
* Make some sort of statement about the genre and how it developed after Conan Doyle (it is still one of the most popular genres today, and why?)—looking forward to our next essay on modern-day texts that revise the classical conventions of the genre