Rhetorical Analysis Essay

Modern-Day Holmes Text

This will be a thesis-driven rhetorical analytical essay that uses close reading of a modern-day Holmes text, reference to classical conventions from Conan Doyle, and makes conclusions about how the modern-day text follows or revises the classical convention in order to fit the 21st century audience, context, and/or the film/television medium.

For this essay, begin with one of the Forum prompts (weeks 6 or 7--on Sherlock or the Sherlock Holmes films. These prompts were written to give you a head start on performing a rhetorical analysis.

The majority of the prompts focus on a classic convention and how that convention works in the modern day text. If you choose one of these topics, you will begin with a classic convention invented by Conan Doyle and popularized by his canon of Holmes stories; you'll define this convention (and use the scholarly sources we studied to help you develop this introduction to your topic). Then you will perform a close reading of TWO scenes from the modern-day text. You can do two scenes from one text (ie, two scenes from Sherlock or two scenes from one of the films), or you can use two different texts (ie, one scene from Sherlock and one scene from one of the films, or one scene from each of the films). Choose the scenes wisely--the choice of the scenes you analyze is almost as important as the analysis itself. (We will talk about scene selection in class week 8).

When you analyze the scenes ("close reading"), use the cinematic terms we have been studying to help you break the scene into parts. As you analyze the scene, explain how it is following the convention (which is your main topic) or twisting it. You should be making conclusions about how the changes can be explained because the modern-day text is in another historical context, with a different audience, and/or a different medium.

A few of the prompts (the ones for the films) are a bit different. If you choose one of these, your purpose will be a bit different--you will still be analyzing two scenes, but you will be doing so in order to make some conclusions about how the films "mash up" another genre (and how this mash up is appealing to the current historical context and audience) or you'll be analyzing two scenes in order to analyze how the film creates "suspense" or "mystery."

In all cases, you should use the forum prompts as a starting place and guide for your initial draft.

**Page length:** 5-6 pages, double spaced 12 point font

**Audience:**Written in formal tone for a scholarly audience

**Sources:**Use at least 4 credible sources for a scholarly audience

**Format:**Use MLA Format and Citation style, including a Works Cited