English IV – Standard – Paper 1 Prompt and Rubric

Paper one is basically an argumentative paper wherein you must utilize textual evidence (supporting quotes from *Beowulf*) to help argue your point. Think of it like building evidence for a case, except the evidence is quotes. Below, I offer two choices on what point you may argue. *Beowulf* should be your only source. Your skill in completing a paper with multiple sources will be honed / tested in a later assignment, not this one. The prompt choices are as follows:

1. Analyze a speech from Beowulf (either Unferth’s insult, Beowulf’s response to the insult, or Wiglaf’s speech to the running thanes), and explain what the speaker uses to persuade his audience. Why does he say the things he says? What impact does he hope they will have? Are there parts of the speech you think were very effective? Why?

2. Reflect on a battle from *Beowulf* from one of the character’s perspectives / points of view: either Beowulf’s, Grendel’s, Unferth’s, or a character of your choice. What was the experience like for them, from their perspective? You may use first person for this prompt only.

Requirements – This paper must be one to two pages, double-spaced, 12 pt font, Times New Roman, have one-inch margins on all sides, and a full heading on the upper-left corner of the first page, last name and page number on the upper-right corner of every page, in-text citations for every quote and fact, and works cited page in MLA format on a separate page at the end of the essay. Please, submit this paper via googledocs on or by **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** .

Example Rubric (You do not have to turn this in with your paper)

1. Follows prompt / instructions: Comments xx/10

Does the paper **argue** a point about **Beowulf** using quotes from the text. Be sure that you don’t just summarize the plot and present it as an essay. An essay is different from a simple plot summary. Avoid details from the movie, especially those different from the book.

2. Introduction: Comments xx/10

Do you have an introduction? Does it start with a hook, introduce the basic topics, then end with a specific thesis statement, in one to two sentences, that lays out the main and supporting points, in order?

3. Body Paragraphs: Comments xx/10

Do you have two to four body paragraphs? Does each body paragraph focus on **one**supporting point w/ details and examples. Does it avoid blending two or three points together in a single paragraph? Do they have topic sentences? Do they transition between paragraphs?

4. Conclusion: Comments xx/10

Do you have a conclusion paragraph? Does it summarize, briefly, what the essay has said? Does it reflect / give parting thoughts of the significance of what’s been said? Does it avoid mounting a new argument not made in the body of the essay?

5. Layout / Organization: Comments xx/10

Does the essay start with an introduction, have body paragraphs, then a conclusion, in that order? Is the order of the body paragraphs in line with the order of the supporting points in the thesis statement?

6. Use of Examples and Quotes: Comments xx/10

Do you use specific examples from the text? Do you use specific quotes from the text? Are the quotes relevant to what you’re saying?

7. In-Text Citations and Works Cited: Comments xx/10

Use an in-text citation for every quote, fact, summarized or paraphrased passage used in your essay. If it’s not straight from your head, it gets cited like this: (*Beowulf* 5) or whatever the page number may be. Is there also a Works Cited page at the end of the essay? Admittedly, it should only have one source, *Beowulf*, unless you’re doing the prompt that includes *Kells*, in which case there should be two sources. Is it in the proper format? On a new page? Works Cited centered at the top? Entries left aligned with hanging indents?

8. Language: Comments xx/10

Avoid first and second person in all academic essays, unless they’re about you / autobiographical. This essay is not. All third person. No I, me, we, us, my, mine, you, your, you’re, yours, you all, yall, etc. Use formal language. Avoid swear words and slang. Try to be clear and coherent. Don’t talk about the class or your paper-writing process or how you enjoyed the book. Don’t use phrases like “In my paper I will” or “I will show you that” or “In this essay.”

9. Grammar / Punctuation: Comments xx/10

Follow all the rules of grammar and punctuation to the best of your ability. This includes not just what we’ve went over in class, but what you’ve learned over all your English courses.

10. Formatting: Comments xx/10

Do you have 12pt font, Times New Roman, black, double-spaced? One-inch margins? A full header in MLA format on the first page? Last name and page number in the upper right corner of every page? Does the paper meet the two page minimum requirement? Was it submitted in the proper format (i.e. googledocs)?