Literary Research Paper

Literature is a conversation. Authors write back to other authors across time and space -- agreeing with, disagreeing with, qualifying, clarifying, and/or expanding on writings that have come before. In this researched essay, you will develop and defend a thesis grounded in a conversation between two texts we have read this semester, one ancient (the Bible and/or the Odyssey) and one modern. How does the modern writer reference the ancient work, and to what end? How does he or she transform or complicate the meaning(s) of the ancient text? What point is the modern author trying to make with his or her poem, and how does the ancient text inform the contemporary work? Defend your position with ample evidence from at least five secondary sources. Your essay should be at least five pages and observe MLA style.

Sources:
Three sources have been provided for you. You will have to find at least two additional credible sources. With regard to the sources provided for you: They are scholarly articles written by academics, and they will be challenging for you read and grasp. However, we have reduced your workload by narrowing entire articles to a few pages that we deem worthy of your consideration. To find the relevant page numbers for each article, please see “Scholarly Source Aid.”

Notecards:
In order to organize your sources, quotations, and citation information, you will have to write notecards early on in the research paper process. The notecards should be divided between source cards and notecards. A source card details the title, author, and citation information for the source you have used. You will then write notecards that both record important quotations from that source and summarize how that quotation is relevant to your argument. In the end, you should have at least five source cards and multiple notecards for each source card.

Writing Center:
Every student must visit the Writing Center once during the process of writing the research paper. Each student has been an assigned window within which to schedule an appointment.

Style:
Please follow the MLA style guidelines, which can be found at Purdue University’s online writing lab (also known as Purdue OWL): https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/. But here are a few of the more obvious formatting requirements:
- Parenthetical citations throughout (for quoting and paraphrasing)
- 12 point Times New Roman font
- 1 inch margins
- Title centered (not bold, not italicized, not underlined)
- Last name and page number in the upper right corner

Due Dates:
Notecards: 2/7
Outline: 2/9
First Draft 2/13
Final Draft: 3/3