

Paper #1 Theme

Length 3-4 pages (not counting works cited page), double-spaced, one inch margins.

Rough draft workshop April 15

Due April 16

All papers should use MLA in-text citations and have a Works Cited page. Sources should be primarily from the Norton edition. Please provide photocopies of any other source material. SparkNotes and Wikipedia are **not** acceptable sources—and certainly don't plagiarize from them or any other sources.

1. What is the theme, the major idea, of *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*? Your editor's introduction on page xii suggests several possible readings of the tale if we view it as an allegory. Consider which of these, if any, you could support in your paper.
2. Draft a working thesis. Outline your major points.
3. Look for supporting dialogue or plot elements from the story that support your thesis. How might characterization (for example, Scottish characters, lack of named women) or setting (for example, all that fog, urbanization) contribute to the theme? Analyze these elements. Think about lecture discussions. Avoid overly long quotations. Introduce any quotation by first discussing the context and situation for that particular quotation, then follow with an analysis of the quotation.
4. Does any of the Victorian-era material or Stevenson's letters support your position? Explain how. Make sure you distinguish between material published during Stevenson's lifetime and later scholarly criticism.
5. Examine any of the literary criticism or contextual material we have read; skim other literary interpretations in the Norton. Do any of these authors help advance your argument? Would you modify any of those positions? How? Explain.
6. In your conclusion, explain how your reading provides insight into the story. What should reader see now after reading your paper that might not have been apparent on first reading?

Eng. 105

Peer Response to Paper #1

Name _____ Responding to _____ paper

1. The first paragraph should identify the literary work (the novella *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*), give a thesis, and indicate the theme that will be discussed. There should, ideally, be some indication as to why this theme is particularly interesting and the relationship between the theme and characterization and setting.

Comments:

2. Check if the language of the thesis is vague. Can thesis be stated more precisely? Does it offer tension? If not, can it be made to have tension?

Comments:

3. There should be a discussion of different interpretations of the theme by secondary sources, both historical and critical, in the Norton.

Comments:

4. The paper should not become a plot summary. If there is too much plot here, go back to the first paragraph and determine if the paper actually has a thesis.

Comments:

5. There should be an awareness of the historical period and its social norms.

Comments: