

English 1406.A0 – Reading and Writing Critically

Second Paper: Due Nov. 21, 23, or 25

Length: As long as it needs to be, and neither longer or shorter.

All assignments are due, on paper, delivered in person, at the beginning of class. Late Papers will be penalized 15% per class day for one week, after which the paper will not be accepted. Acadia professors have the right to fail any student who does not submit for grade every graded assignment or exam over the course of the year.

Assignment:

Assume you are writing a paper to be read by any one of your classmates. S/he has also read *Not Wanted on the Voyage*, but s/he wants to know your thoughts on one of the following topics.

- Androgyny
- Apocalypse / apocalyptic vision / etc.
- Fascism / Political Structure / etc.
- Feminism
- Flood Stories
- Magic Realism
- Mythology
- Queer(s) / queerness / etc.

In all cases you are expected to research the topic chosen from the list above, and then apply it to an understanding of some aspect of Findley's novel.

Introduce the topic first, then use your new-found understanding of the topic to inform your discussion of *Not Wanted on the Voyage*. Your goal will be to enable in your reader a new understanding of *Not Wanted on the Voyage*, **or** to enable a new understanding of [your topic] based on the reader's prior exposure to *Not Wanted on the Voyage*.

You will be graded on:

The clarity of your writing;

Your ability to follow the formatting instructions below;

The extent of your research into the topic as demonstrated by:

1. Your list of References
2. Your application of what you learn in your research to the novel;

Your imaginativeness in applying your research to your discussion of the novel.

Format:

Do NOT have a title page.

But DO have a title, and put your title at the top of page 1, with your name, single spaced, on the next line beneath it. Center these two lines. Then have two or three line spaces below your name before you start your text. The rest of your text should be double spaced.

Give your paper a title that communicates your thesis. A reader should be able to look at the title and understand what the paper is about. For example, Timothy Findley's *Not Wanted on the Voyage* is a terrible title; Second Essay is even worse; but Is Lucy the Protagonist of *Not Wanted on the Voyage*? would be an excellent title because it communicates to the reader that the essay will make an argument in favour of viewing Lucy as the novel's protagonist: this would be a good thesis because it is equally possible that Noah, Mottyl, or Mrs. Noyes is the protagonist.

Your title should NOT be boldfaced, huge, italicized, underlined, or enclosed within quotation marks. Your title should be plain text, the same font as the rest of your paper, and at most a standard size larger, e.g. Title size 14 pts, and body text 12 pts.

Familiarize yourself with the Modern Language Association (MLA) style as it is presented on pp. 567 – 616 of the *Broadview Guide to Writing*. Use this style wherever applicable in your paper.

Do NOT allow extra space between paragraphs.

Indent paragraphs.

Print your work onto paper for submission AT THE START OF CLASS ON THE DAY IT IS DUE.

Before you submit your paper, you or a friend should read it—on paper—and make all necessary corrections. Mistakes born of ignorance will be forgiven; mistakes born of laziness will not. Use your computer's spell checking feature, but proofread too. If your computer tries to call to your attention a grammatical mistake, consider it, and ask others about it, but be sceptical about this feature and trust to your own sense of what sounds right when there is a conflict.

Every mistake you could have caught through careful proofreading will earn the comment of "proofread" on your paper. When there are three such comments I will stop reading, and award a grade of 40%. Proofread the hard copy of your paper.

Staple your pages together. This is a requirement. Do not show up in class and ask the professor if he has a stapler with him. He doesn't; he won't have.

Feel free to—in fact be sure to—mark any errors you see on your paper before submitting it if you don't have time to print off another copy, or if it is some small error that does not warrant re-printing the entire paper. E.g. suppose you notice that you typed “if” where you meant to type “it”. Simply cross out the “f” and handprint or write clearly a “t” above it. You will be far better served to do that, than to risk being late to class the day your paper is due.

The professor reads a great many student papers during the course of any given year, and can automatically pick up on the use of margins that are too wide or too narrow, and fonts that reproduce text in larger or smaller than typical sizes. So just don't. Use a standard font, and set your margins somewhere between 2 and 2.5cm for all four edges (i.e. top, bottom, and sides).

Be sure to number all pages of your essay, after page one. In other words, be sure to number all pages of your essay from page two forward. Put the number in the upper right corner of the page. This can be done automatically using any contemporary word processing software (e.g. MSWord, Pages, Open Office or Libre Office). If you don't know how to do it, ask in class. If no one asks, you will not be forgiven for not having done this for your paper—and no, handwritten page numbers will not ordinarily be accepted.

Yes, you can use the first person pronoun.