Junior English

We’ve finished reading and discussing *The Great Gatsby* and now it’s time to move forward and begin to write an explication. Before selecting your passage, you need to determine your understanding of Fitzgerald’s message. A good place to begin with your final thoughts paragraphs. What does Fitzgerald suggest about a particular topic? We discussed several passages throughout the unit, so reviewing your group notes should be helpful, too. Once you’ve finished reviewing, begin to look for passages to examine. When you think you have found a passage, ask yourself the following:

* Is this passage rich enough to explore and spend several pages connecting literary elements to theme?
* How does Fitzgerald’s use of literary tools in this passage help him establish a specific theme?

When you believe that you have found two strong possible passages to explicate, submit them to me for approval; use the passage submission document on the class website. After I approve the passage(s), you should begin to mark up the passage to identify the literary devices, syntax, word choice, tone, etc. Pay particular attention to diction and tone. Mark everything that you see.

Begin your essay by copying the passage from the text. Be sure that it is single-spaced and the margins are justified, and be sure to cite the author and page number. Then skip two lines and begin your essay. Start with a short introduction in which you identify the work and author and indicate the scene and literary tools that you will be exploring. Give readers some context for the passage, but avoid summarizing the story. End your introduction with an assertion in which you make a statement about why this passage is central to the novel as a whole and how it shows a specific theme.

The body of your essay will contain your analysis of the passage. In other words, you will move through the passage carefully examining, diction, literary device, tone, syntax, etc. to prove your assertion. Your body paragraphs should demonstrate your understanding of the devices and how they function in the passage.

Finally, include a conclusion that synthesizes the points that you have made. You will need to show that you understand how the literary tools work together to create meaning. Be sure to emphasize the theme that you believe Fitzgerald shows in the passage.

Your essay MUST include quotes from the passage. You may include brief (and cited) quotes from other parts of the story to offer additional support and demonstrate that your interpretation pertains to the whole story.

**Explication details:**

1.5 pages, typed, single-spaced, standard font

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|  | **Period 3** | **Period 6** |
| Passage submission | Tuesday, September 24 by 10:31 am | Tuesday, September 24 by 2:17 pm |
| Work days | Tuesday, September 24 & Wednesday, September 25 | Tuesday, September 24 & Thursday, September 26 |
| Annotated passage | Tuesday, September 24 by the end of the period | Tuesday, September 24 by the end of the period |
| Rough draft | Friday, September 27 | Friday, September 27 |
| Final essay  Submit your work to turnitin.com by the start of class | Wednesday, October 2 | Wednesday, October 2 |