Paper 3 Assignment
Gender & Literature: Argumentative Literary Essay

Choose one of the readings from this section of the course and develop an argument about what that text communicates about gender. Does it critique or celebrate a certain type of masculinity or femininity, or offer alternative gender identities? In order to support your argument, your essay will use evidence generated by your close reading of the poem or narrative that explicates the text’s diction, tone, point of view, and imagery. You may also want to discuss literary techniques such as metaphor and dialogue.

Remember when you write that in a literary text, the narrative voice in the text does not necessarily align with the author and may not express his or her opinions. This narrative voice is often created and developed as a character. You may argue that this voice represents the author, but to do so you will have to bring in biographical evidence.

TEXTS:

“I’m a Woman” by Marzieh Ahmadi Oskooii
“The Woman Hanging From the 13th Floor Window” by Joy Harjo
“Reflections on Growing Older” by Quincy Troupe
“No Name Woman” by Maxine Hong Kingston
Chapter 5 from Goat by Brad Land
excerpt from Slut! By Leora Tanenbaum

• Your finished draft will be six pages, double-spaced, in MLA format.
• There is no need to do a Works Cited page, since you will draw only from the above sources.
• You may choose to compare two texts (no more than two), but remember that you must focus your comparison around a specific theme.
• In a literary essay, quotes are more appropriate than paraphrasing because the emphasis is on analyzing the exact way the author has rendered the idea, not simply on the idea itself. In other words, you will discuss exactly HOW the author conveys his or her message as much as you will discuss the message. Often it helps to think about the effect of a particular passage or phrase upon the reader, and explain how it achieves this effect. How does this effect contribute to or contradict the message being conveyed?
• See rubric for more detail.