Responsive Paper #1

Virginia Woolf's extended essay, *A Room of One's Own*, serves as a historical look into the ways in which women have culturally been excluded from education, and therefore, as authors. In addition, it also serves as a glimpse into the ways in which women have been portrayed *in* various works of literature. In this assignment, I am asking you to write a response paper to these notions. I would like you to do the following, in this order:

1. Write an introduction that properly introduces your paper. At the end of this paragraph, include a thesis statement that frames your argument.

2. Summarize both chapters (Chapter 2 & 3). This should be two paragraphs in length, one paragraph per chapter. Be sure to parenthetically cite the text, as you are using it.

3. Analyze Woolf's argument. What, specifically, is she saying about women as authors, and as characters in literature. Analyze the context in which this was written. Historically, what was the role of women in 1929, the year in which this was published. In addition, how did Woolf's personal experiences influence her argument. For this, you will need to do some outside research, both in regards to the time period, and Woolf's personal life. I expect a very minimum of two outside sources in this section. A well developed paper will have more. This section, well written, should be 4-6 paragraphs in length.

4. Compare and contrast the role of women as authors and in literature from Woolf's time to contemporary women (i.e. women today). What has changed? What hasn't changed? What barriers do women face, both in our culture, and in the ways in which they are represented in literature. Use specific examples and references. You may need to do some outside research. This section, well written, should be 2-3 paragraphs in length.

5. Write a conclusion that provides closure to your response.

6. Attach a "Works Cited" page in MLA style. Also be sure to include in-text citations in parenthesis throughout, as needed.

**AS A WHOLE, THIS SHOULD BE A MINIMUM OF THREE PAGES IN LENGTH, PLUS A WORKS CITED PAGE. A WELL DEVELOPED RESPONSE WILL LIKELY GO OVER THIS MINIMUM.**

As you can see, I am asking you to do more than summarize. I am asking you to analyze. No two responses should be the same. Furthermore, I am asking you to write this in a professional, formal, well developed manner. This is much more formal than our discussion boards. This means that you should use the text as support (i..e. quotes and paraphrase), along with outside sources as needed. Furthermore, you will need to cite your sources, including *A Room of One's Own*, in MLA Style, both when you quote and paraphrase. Most paragraphs, if not all, should have citations. If you are unfamilliar with MLA style, please visit Purdue Owl online. There are ample free websites that can help you. If you have any specific questions, please feel free to e-mail me.

Responsive Essays must be approximately 1000 words in length (within 100-words of this on each side)

iii. Essays must be typed in Microsoft Word, double-spaced, Times New Roman,12-point font, one-inch margins, aligned left.

iv. Material from the essays should be cited in MLA both in the text, and on a works cited page. If you are unfamiliar with MLA, use Purdue Owl’s website at https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/ to better understand the format.

v. The essays should be a response to prompts given regarding discussions, readings, and your reactions—anything relevant to the course that you deem important.

vi. The essay assignments are structured to afford opportunities to develop and refine your own ideas from the course materials, and to strengthen your scholarly argumentation and critical thinking skills, drawing upon concepts and core themes addressed throughout the course.

vii. The essays will be graded on relevance, clarity, cohesiveness/focus, quality, depth, and thoroughness of thought. Please refer to the grading rubric on Moodle.

viii. Late assignments will not be accepted. You will automatically receive zero pts (0%) for assignments not turned in by the deadline.