

**Length: 2500-2700 words**

**Due Date: Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> by midnight**

**Desired Learning Outcomes:**

1. Formulate an original **thesis** that analyzes *The Turn of the Screw* from a critical perspective (or multiple perspectives)
2. Follow guidelines for effective **unity, coherence, and development** of paragraphs.
3. Use **quotations and/or paraphrases** correctly as supporting evidence from **the entire novel**. Use enough evidence to fully support your argument. NOTE: Quoting and documentation are mandatory for this assignment; if they are lacking, the paper will fail.
4. Use **8 outside sources** to support your own original interpretation of the novel. The sources should be used for support, not to make the argument for you.
5. Use the **MLA style** of parenthetical documentation for quotation and paraphrases. Most handbooks recommend that 15-20% (no more or less) of the word count of the paper should be direct quotation.

**ASSIGNMENT:**

First, decide on your own interpretation of *The Turn of the Screw*. What theory(ies) do you want to use? What are you going to concentrate on from the novel and why?

Write an original thesis statement that lays out your critical interpretation of the novel.

Find evidence from the novel to support your thesis. **DO THIS BEFORE YOU SEARCH FOR OUTSIDE SOURCES!**

Find outside sources that will support your own interpretation.

Create an outline of your essay that lays out where your evidence will go and in what order.

Write the essay.

**ORGANIZATION METHODS:**

Note: Your paper will be organized around your interpretation of the novel, therefore, your interpretation should probably come first.

Possible ways to organize the essay:

- Analyze the novel, then use outside sources to support your interpretation.
- Analyze the novel, then show how your interpretation is superior to that of an outside source.
- Use an outside source to set up how you will analyze the novel, then present your own analysis.
- Some combination of the above.

## Thesis Statement

### Requirements:

What the author does and why.

It should lay out the focus of your essay in regards to elements of the novel, and then connect this to critical theory(ies) and an overall universal idea.

The how can be related to a theory: how or what the author writes about.

The why should be related to a theory: gets towards a universal idea related to the theory.

### Sample:

In Ambrose Bierce's "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," he distinguishes between the conscious and unconscious mind of Peyton Farquhar in order to display the harsh reality of the American Civil War.

Within the novella, James characterizes the conflict between the lower and upper class and creates an unreliable narrator to reveal how the bourgeois division of labor results in commodity fetishism and alienation, leading to the collapse of this system of inequality and exploitation at Bly because of the strain placed on the governess.