The Human Condition

Assignment: Annotated Anthology

In April of 1999, on the brink of a new millennium, Elie Wiesel addressed a room full of some of his nation’s most influential world leaders and delivered an impassioned speech about the future of the human condition (“The Perils of Indifference”). Near the end of his speech, after he has spoken about both the past millennium’s greatest human failures and its greatest triumphs, he asks his audience: “Has the human being become less indifferent and more human?” Rather than answer this question, Wiesel leaves it floating between the auditorium walls for his audience to contemplate. For this assignment, you are a member of Wiesel’s audience. After learning about the terrible events of the Holocaust and other human rights triumphs and failures within our world, you must decide:

Since the dawn of the new millennium (year 2000-2017), **“Has the human being become less indifferent and more human?”** Is it human nature to learn from our mistakes, and strive to be more humane? Or, will there always be injustice and indifference within our world, no matter how many millennia pass?

To answer this question, you will create a five-piece annotated anthology. It must include:

* **An introduction…**
  + …that reflects on the past state of the human condition within the final century of the first millennium (years 1900-1999). You may choose to discuss only the Holocaust, or you may bring examples of other human rights injustices from this time frame into your writing.
* **3 examples that support your answer…**
  + …in the form of broadcasts, articles, or other nonfiction documents of global events from between the years 2000-2017, plus an annotation that is 150 words or less for each
* **A conclusion…**
  + …that reflects your thoughts about the current and future state of the human condition within the first century of the second millennium (years 2000-2017+). You should discuss each of the three events that you’ve chosen to include in your anthology, and how these events support your current understanding of human nature.
* **Your anthology must also include a “Title Page” and a “Works Cited” page (see examples, attached)**

What is an anthology?

An anthology is a thematic collection of texts (ex. an anthology of Canadian poetry). Our anthology will be a collection of news clippings that focus on the theme of Human Nature.

What is an annotation?

An annotation is a note of explanation, evaluation, summary or comment that is added at the end of a piece of writing. Your annotations for this assignment will summarize the events that occur in the texts you’ve included within your anthology and explain how this event demonstrates “humanity,” “inhumanity,” or both. They should identify the victims, the oppressors, and the bystanders.

What is a Title Page?

A title page is a page at the front of your assignment that provides: the name of your assignment, the name of yourself, the name of your course, the name of your teacher, and the date of submission.

What is a Works Cited page?

A Works Cited page is a page at the end of your assignment that provides: an alphabetical (according to author’s last name OR site name, if the author’s name is not available) and MLA-formatted list of all the resources you used to create your assignment.

Questions to guide your thinking and responding:

* What does it mean to be human? Inhuman? Are humans born “human/good,” “inhuman/bad,” or “blank slate”?
* Is the darker side of human nature learned (and can, thus, be unlearned) or innate?
* Will there ever come a time when there will be no more suffering at the hands of our fellow humans? Or is there always the possibility of something as terrible as the Holocaust happening again?

Exemplar 1: Title Page

Annotated Anthology

Subtitle

First Name Last Name

Grade 12 Comprehensive ELA

Ms. Hammond

May 10, 2017

Exemplar 2: Works Cited Page

If the author’s name is available:

Last Name, First Name. “Article Title.” Website Title. Website Publisher, Date Month Year Published. Web. Date Month Year Accessed. <URL>

If the author’s name is not available:

“Article Title.” Website Title. Website Publisher, Date Month Year Published. Web. Date Month Year Accessed. <URL>

**Works Cited**

“Darth Vader vs. Donald Trump: The study of nature vs. nurture on twins separated at birth.” Psychology Today.

Blue Man Group, 17 November, 2016. 1 May, 2017. <http://psychologytoday.com/trump-vader-twins?!?,>.

Hammond, Paul. “Donald Trump’s Simple, Yet Brilliant Solution: Build a Wall.” Conservative Farmers Weekly.

FarmFocus Group, 30 March, 2017. 1 May, 2017.

<http://www.conservativefarmers.com/contributors/canada/paul-hammond>.

Kunka, Lori. “Humanity Doesn’t Only Apply to Humans: Doesn’t Anyone Care About the Cats?” Crazy Cat Co.

Pawprints Media,15 January, 2013. 1 May, 2017. <http://www.catladiesofcanada.ca/humanity-and-cats/>

During your study of Elie Wiesel’s *Night*, you took part in a variety of mini-lessons that focused on four of the core **literary devices** within the English Language:

* Figurative Language (metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole)
* Foreshadowing
* Symbolism
* Theme

What is this assignment all about?

For this assignment, you will need to choose 1 of the devices listed above, then create a double sided Tarot Card that depicts a powerful example of how this device is used within the novel. You may decide to use the same device you chose to write down on your sticky note during the mini-lesson, but remember: you will be assessed on the overall impact the example you choose has on the novel.

What is a Tarot Card?

Tarot cards come in a deck of 56-78. They are a form of divination used by fortune tellers and psychics to help people predict their future in areas such as career, love, and quality of life.

What must my Tarot Card include?

On the Front of the Card:

* A word/phrase that sums up your specific device
  + Ex. if I chose the symbol “night” I would write “Night” at the top of my tarot card
* Quote from the novel where the device is used
  + Ex. “Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, that turned my life into one long night seven times sealed”
* Visual (coloured or shaded) representation of your device
  + Ex. a black background with an Auschwitz barrack in the bottom corner filled with dimly-lit starts, and a single, final star falling in the direction of the barracks

On the Back of the Card:

* Explanation of what your device represents within both your quote, and the novel, as a whole.
* Continuation of the visual representation around the border or your card

What do I need to do now?

1. Choose a device
2. Think about what this device represents within the novel, and why it is important/impactful
3. Find a specific example (a quote) from the novel that showcases your chosen device
4. Complete your tarot card (front and back)