Assignment: Research Paper
Due Wed, Dec 2 midnight on Moodle

Objectives:
1. To Develop College Writing and Research Skills:
- to clearly organize and thoroughly develop ideas
- to construct, test and articulate arguments
- to locate and evaluate appropriate research material
- to apply an effective and efficient research methodology
- to use information and sources ethically

2. To Demonstrate Knowledge about Hans Christian Andersen and his tales:
- to interpret Andersen's tales using appropriate disciplinary tools
- to analyze social and political forces that shaped people's experiences on the basis of race, class, gender, ethnicity, and sexuality during Andersen's lifetime in Denmark and the USA
- to analyze social and political forces that continue to shape people's experiences on the basis of race, class, gender, ethnicity, and sexuality today in the US and globally
- to respond to the art of Andersen's tales as a mode for individual expression and service

Assignment description: The research paper is designed as a learning process to mastering undergraduate college research and writing skills through interpretation of HC Andersen's tales. You will choose a topic about a social or political issue most relevant to you and demonstrate how one of HC Andersen's tales deal with the same issue. In the research paper, you will have to:
(a) present your thesis (or a main question) about the chosen social, political or cultural issue raised in HC Andersen's tale
(b) provide an overview of a relevant academic scholarship about the chosen tale (has anybody else written about it on the same issue you want to write?
- If yes, what direction will your research paper take - how will you use the arguments that have already been made? Will you agree, disagree, or make a new argument and why?
- If not, what other arguments have scholars made about the tale? What topics have they predominantly written on? Why do you think the connection between the tale and the issue you have chosen has not been made before?
(c) interpret the tale using the analysis tools you have learned in the critical reading workshop. Please have in mind that you will be interpreting the tale in order to make one or several related arguments to prove your thesis (or answer the main question) about the chosen issue, so your interpretation is plugged into the overall topic of your paper.
(d) compare how the chosen social, political or cultural issue played out in Denmark and the USA during HC Andersen's lifetime. For example, what were sexual norms applied to women and men in the 19th C. Danish society and in the USA?
(e) trace how the same issue has been addressed in the current Danish and American societies. Have we seen any changes? Improvements?
(f) state your conclusion: what is your message to the audience after learning more about your topic?

Process: The research paper will be broken down into smaller graded assignments. See below for the workshops and assignments with their due dates (they also appear in the course schedule in the syllabus). I will provide guidelines for each assignment in class. We will also have two individual

conferences to discuss your paper, but you are welcome to approach me as many times as you need. Please see the syllabus for my contact information. Please work with the Writing Center as well!

	Research Stages	In Class Workshops	Date	Assignments	Due Date
1.	Invention	Library Session #2	Sept 4	*Propp-R Analysis Paper*	*Sept 11*
2.	Planning	Library Session # 3 Research Topic Selection	Sep 11	*"Choosing a Topic"*	*Sept 21*
		Guide to Research Proposal	Sept 28	*Research Proposal*	*Oct 5*
3.	Drafting	Guide to Character Analysis	Oct 5	*Character Analysis*	*Oct 12*
4.	Revising	Peer Review Session #1 and First Individual conference with Dr. Halvorson	Nov 5	*The First Draft*	*Nov 2*
5.	Editing and proofreading	Second Individual conference with Dr. Halvorson and the tutor Writing Center	Week 13	*The Second Draft*	*Nov 16*
				Research Paper 8-12 pages	*Dec 2*

Audience: your audience is the reader of the New York Times, has a college degree, is informed about the current political or social issues in the USA and knows the plot of several famous HC Andersen's tales (mostly through Disney and children's books published in the US). The audience prefers well-researched facts and their correlation to the HC Andersen tale on the same issue.

Language: formal and sophisticated, corresponds to the language style of the articles in the New York Times, therefore slang should be avoided at all costs, and the first-person should be used sparingly.

Format: Typed, written in MLA documentation style, a minimum of 8 pages (2,400 words) and a maximum of 12 pages (3,600 words) including the works cited. Please include your last name and page number in the header (top right corner of every page). Please list your full name, instructor's name, course number and the date on the top left corner of the first page. Provide the title of your paper centered on the first page as well. You will find a sample MLA paper on pages 175-181 in Hacker.

Sources: You will be expected to cite as many sources as you need to support your thesis. Please use MLA style for in-text citations, avoid plagiarism and document all borrowed ideas. To read more about plagiarism, see Inquiry Matters, p. 90. You will have to use both primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include: HC Andersen's tale (in Haugaard's translation), film, animation, work of art and another author's literary text. Acceptable types of secondary sources: published or electronic journal articles that are at least 3 pages in length, printed or electronic books (at least one must be copyrighted after 2000), lectures, published proceedings of a conference, newspaper or magazine articles, and websites (consult with the instructor about their credibility before you decide to use them). Journal articles and books should comprise at least 50% of all your secondary sources.

Works Cited Page: All the primary and secondary sources quoted or otherwise referred in your paper should be listed alphabetically in MLA style in the Works Cited page at the end of your paper.

Submission: electronic upload onto Moodle. The research paper is due December 2 midnight on Moodle. Late submission will not be accepted and will result in 0 points.

Grading criteria for Research Paper:

Criteria:	Comment
Thesis & Introduction* Assertion; precise; accurate preview of structure/conclusions; developed	
Interpretation* Appropriate analysis tools; connected to thesis and overall topic	
Evidence & Development* Well chosen; documented as required; clear conclusions from evidence (So What?); supports arguments (Prove It!)	
Structure & Paragraphs Purposeful; logical; effective; transitions; development	
Conventions Syntax; Usage; Mechanics; Punctuation; Format	

* These features are especially important because they demonstrate your critical thinking on this assignment

The essay score x100

90-100	Mostly plus scores; strong performance in all areas
80-89	Mostly check-plus scores; room for improvement in a few areas
70-79	Mostly check scores; work is OK but could be improved in most areas
60-69	Low scores in several areas