**Modern Literature**

**Expository Writing Responses**

After reading the handout “Modern Literature Characteristics”, you will complete a writing assignment where you will be synthesizing the key points of information regarding Modern literature and its characteristics. While this will not be a full five paragraph essay, you will still be expected to observe the same writing conventions and rules as if you were writing a complete analytical essay.

This will be considered your final writing assignment for the Modern Literature unit. You will be assessed on your ability to make connections between texts (both the outside nonfiction and the literature pieces we studied in class), the relevance of application of the fiction pieces to the ideas being put forth in the nonfiction piece, the cohesion in your writing, and your observances of basic writing mechanics (spelling, grammar, capitalization, punctuation).

The steps to completing this assignment are as follows:

1. Read “[Modern Literature Characteristics](file://localhost/Users/user/Desktop/Characteristics%20of%20modern%20lit.docx)” in its entirety. Make notes as you read of which texts might apply to which ideas that are being discussed in the writing (this will help you when you actually begin the writing process).
2. Select three points that you believe are the MOST important for characterizing Modern literature from the handout. These ideas will become the topic sentences for each of your essay answers. (For example, from cliffnotes.com, it states, “Modernist writer saw a decline of civilization. Instead of new technology, the Modernist writer saw cold machinery and increased capitalism, which alienated the individual and led to loneliness.” [www.cliffnotes.com]).
3. Now, return to the fiction pieces we have studied in class (the two poems, the two short stories, and the movie), and determine specific textual examples from each of these that will support the ideas you collected from the outside source. You will need two textual examples for each statement you chose from the Modern Lit handout. The examples you select from the fiction will be your concrete details. (For example, “Lovesong” specifically references the pollution of industrialization, and Prufrock, Krebs, and Cory clearly are suffering from a sense of isolation and loneliness).
4. IN YOUR OWN WORDS, you will formulate analysis (commentaries) that show connection and importance of the statements you collected from the Modern Lit handout and the textual examples you selected from the fiction pieces. Keep in mind that your commentaries must show SPECIFICALLY how the concrete details connect to the statements you selected from the handout.
5. One answer will look something like this (note the stuff in red/parentheses are my notes explaining the paragraph. You will NOT have this part in your own writing):

*One of the common characteristics of the Modern Age is the increase in technology and industrialism that eventually led to a sense of alienation and loneliness. (this is the topic sentence that I collected from the outside nonfiction source—in your case “Characteristics of Modern Lit”) The narrator, in TS Eliot’s poem “Lovesong of J Alfred Prufrock” exists in this industrial wasteland, wandering unnamed streets and commenting on the “yellow fog that rubs its back upon the window panes {and} lingers upon pools that stand in drains” (14-17). [this is from “Prufrock”—please note that you MUST still write your CDs according to the 6 step format] According to Prufrock’s observations, the city in which he exists is depicted as infected with the waste and residue of modern industrialization. The yellow fog – which is actually smog and pollution – disease Prufrock’s love song and make it seem as wasted as the land itself. [these are my CMs, where I connect how “Lovesong” supports the idea stated in the TS] Likewise, Richard Cory, in Edwin Arlington Robinson’s poem of the same name experiences the same isolation and loneliness that is so prevalent in Prufrock’s experience. Although being admired as “a gentleman from sole to crown” who was “richer than a king” by his neighbors, Richard Cory shockingly commits suicide “one calm summer night” by “[putting] a bullet through his head” (3, 9. 15-16). [CD] Despite his apparent abundance of wealth, Cory is as miserable and alone as his counterpart Prufrock. In the end, it was only Cory’s outside appearance that mattered to his neighbors and admirers, while what was going on inside was never important enough to acknowledge. [CMs] Ultimately, the characters created by the Modern writers were as destroyed as the landscape in which they existed. (This is my conclusion. Note that I very generally address the ideas of BOTH my CDs without talking about them directly, AND I make a reference to the idea of the wasteland, which is essentially what my TS was talking about anyway)*