**Choice Novel Research Paper Outline**

Your final essay should be typed, double-spaced with 1" margins on all sides. You should use 12 pt. Times New Roman font and in-text MLA citations; a Works Cited page will be required. Indicate what you will be quoting from your sources and your novel in your outline.

DUE DATE:

**Section 1: Opening**

* Include the title and author of your choice novel and the topic you’re researching
  + Books, T.V. shows, and movies are *italicized*; short stories, poems, and songs are “quoted.”
* Include the basic background of the topic you researched (make the reader informed and interested enough to read the rest of your paper)
* Your THESIS should be the last sentence of your introduction (but only one sentence)

**Section 2: Definition Defense**

* Define the operative word in your thesis as it will be used in the paper
* Play around with this word to see what will give you the most wiggle room
* Explore the connotations and association of your operative word
* Choose the **most** appropriate definitions
  1. Ex: If your thesis starter is “Movies use books,” “use” means 1) exploit (a person or situation) for one’s own advantage, 2) apply (a name or title) to oneself, 3) a habitual or customary usage [as a part of] group custom.
* Explain WHY that is the most appropriate definition given the topic it describes
* Define any other terms the reader might not know (e.g. If you’re writing about introverts, you might say: this definition of “explore” is most appropriate given that “introverts” are those who get their energy from being alone, and find being with others draining).
  1. N.B. If you’re writing about how Katniss and Peeta “break” traditional gender roles in *The Hunger Games*, you would want to not only define what “traditional gender roles” are but how they relate to your operative word. (i.e. Traditional gender roles, which are ….[your definition here] and come from the evolutionary desire to ensure heredity, create clear barriers and boundaries in society; changing them requires the force and power necessary to “break” something).

**Section 3: Entire section based on first definition**

* Ex: Movies manipulate or exploit books.
* 2-3 sources/quotes
* **ANALYZE THE SIGNIFICANCE AND TIE BACK TO THESIS**

**Section 4: Second definition**

* Ex: Movies apply (a name or title) to oneself from books.
* Etc.

**Section 5, ETC.: Third definition**

* Ex. Movies habitual or customary usage of books [as a part of] group custom.

**Section 6: Conclusion**

* Discuss the significance and/or implications of your paper (why do we care now, or why will we care in the future?)
* **Keys:** Breaking down your argument and making your point as you defined your tools
* Avoid “this is important because,” “this is significant because,” “this means,” “this shows,” etc.
* Use spin in your different definitions: one can have a positive spin and one a negative.