**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**American Studies English**

**Naturalism – Jack London**

**“To Build a Fire” Research Paper**

Important Due Dates:

1. Biographical and Historical Notes:
2. Annotated Bibliography Final Draft:
3. Research Paper Final Draft:

Jack London remains a fixture in American Literature for his depiction of the Alaskan wilderness. He incorporated the tenets of Naturalism in each of his works, creating a realistic impression of Alaska’s unforgiving weather. His works appeal to audiences who appreciate his attention to detail, especially because many have never experienced Alaska in the way London did during the Klondike Gold Rush.

In London’s short story, “To Build a Fire”, elements of Naturalism serve to develop the Naturalist theme of *Man versus Nature.* Specifically, he uses setting, a pessimistic tone, and the impact that instinct and environment have upon human beings in order to develop this theme.

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| **WRITING** **PROMPT:** You are to write a three-paragraph essay analyzing the ways in which London utilizes elements of Naturalism to develop the theme of **Man versus Nature** in his short story, “To Build a Fire”. |

This complex writing assignment is broken down into stages:

1. Analysis of Literary Criticism
2. Research on Jack London (Biographical information), and the Klondike Gold Rush (Historical information)
3. Annotated Bibliography—counts as a separate essay grade
4. Typing the rough draft for editing
5. Editing and completing the final draft

Your assignment:

1. Evaluate the prompt.
2. Develop an MI that you will prove through this essay.
3. **Use your research on London’s life and the Klondike Gold Rush to create relevant background information. This information must be cited**
4. Create an idea tree (MI and 3 DQs) that outlines how you will support your argument.
5. Type a three paragraph essay which includes the following:
   * 1. Introduction
     2. DP with three DQs
     3. Conclusion with RFS
6. **Use your research on Literary Criticism to develop a Reach For Significance for “To Build a Fire”**
7. Created a Works Cited page which includes each of your sources (Biographical, Historical, and Literary Criticism)
8. Upload the final draft of your essay to turnitin.com on or before the due date.
9. On the due date, turn in your idea tree, first draft, self-edit sheet, typed final draft, and rubric in class.

Pre writing:

What are some examples of the following elements of Naturalism in the short story?

* + irony –
  + pessimistic tone –
  + instinct’s effect on humanity –
  + environment’s effect on humanity –
  + distinct setting –

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**American Studies English**

**Naturalism – Jack London**

**“To Build a Fire” Research Paper Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| **Background Information** | Background information is extremely well developed and includes quotations from both historical and biographical sources. All information is relevant. | Background information is well developed and includes quotations from both historical and biographical sources. All information is relevant. | Background information is clear, but may be lacking some development. Information is relevant, but may not include quotations from both sources. | Background information does not include relevant quotations pertaining to the essay topic. |
| **Main Idea/Analysis** | Main Idea is extremely well developed and demonstrates a strong understanding of the prompt; analysis is thorough and directly supports the MI. | Main Idea is well developed and demonstrates a strong understanding of the prompt; analysis directly supports the MI. | Main Idea is clear, but may be lacking some development; some analysis does not directly support the MI. | Main Idea is unclear and lacks development; analysis does not support the MI. |
| **Organization and Structure** | Essay is extremely well organized; has complete and clear topic sentences that effectively answer the prompt; details follow in logical order. | Essay is well-organized; mostly complete and clear topic sentences that effectively answer the prompt; most details follow in logical order. | Essay may have 1-2 errors in organization; details follow in a somewhat logical order but there may be errors in topic sentence structure. | Essay has inadequate topic sentences that do not effectively answer the prompt; details that follow are not in logical order. |
| **Reach for Significance** | Reach for significance insightfully includes quotations from at least one piece of literary criticism, displaying a creative connection between criticism and text. | Reach for significance includes quotations from at least one piece of literary criticism, displaying a connection between criticism and text. | Reach for significance may be missing quotations from at least one piece of literary criticism, but displays a connection between criticism and text. | Reach for significance is missing quotations from the literary criticism, and does not display a connection between criticism and text. |
| **Style: Word Choice and Sentence Structure** | Essay includes varied word choice and sophisticated and appropriately used vocabulary words; sentence structure is varied and contributes to the overall fluidity of the essay. | Word choice in the essay is generally varied, sophisticated vocabulary is incorporated throughout most of the paper although 1-2 words may need to be revised; sentence structure is generally varied, but 1-2 passages of the essay may be somewhat choppy. | Some words are repeated continuously throughout the essay; there is a need for more sophisticated vocabulary; sentence structure lacks variation in 3-4 passages and creates a sense of choppiness to the essay. | Essay lacks the incorporation of sophisticated vocabulary and varied sentence structure. |
| **Grammar & Spelling (Conventions)** | Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content of the essay. | Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content of the essay. | Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content of the essay. | Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content of the essay. |
| **MLA Format/Elements of the Writing Process** | Assignment is in MLA format and all elements of the writing process are included. **No Works Cited Page Errors.** | 1-2 mistakes in MLA format; some elements of the writing process may be missing. **1-2 Works Cited Page Errors.** | 3-4 mistakes in MLA format; some elements of the writing process may be missing. **3-4 Works Cited Page Errors.** | Numerous mistakes in MLA format. Many elements of the writing process are not present. **Numerous Works Cited Page Errors/ No WC Page** |

**SUMMATIVE FEEDBACK**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **STRENGTHS** | **AREAS TO IMPROVE** |
| \_\_\_\_\_ Strong research-based background information.  \_\_\_\_\_ Your essay is well organized, and your MI is clear and developed.  \_\_\_\_\_ Strong incorporation of textual evidence.  \_\_\_\_\_ Good initial analysis points.  \_\_\_\_\_ Meaningful and relevant research-based connections in your RFS.  \_\_\_\_\_ Precise attention to MLA and the writing process. | \_\_\_\_\_ Develop background information in introduction paragraph.  \_\_\_\_\_ Pay attention to organization, specifically topic sentence structure and concluding sentence structure.  \_\_\_\_\_ Support your MI by clarifying and building line of development.  \_\_\_\_\_ Develop more dynamic word choice and sentence structure.  \_\_\_\_\_ Enrich your RFS by connecting to the text via literary criticism.  \_\_\_\_\_ Be consistent with MLA and formatting rules.  \_\_\_\_\_ Proofread to be aware of issues with spelling, grammar and mechanics. |