

Paper 1 : Responding to Anglo-Caribbean Literature

Due on September 20, 2005 : [1000 words]

Focus:

Focus on a very specific argument, idea or topic from V. S. Naipaul's *The Mystic Masseur*. The following topics may be of interest:

[see handouts for ideas]

This short composition will utilize the strategy of "responding to literature," and basic notions of: characterizations, theme, setting, plot structures, use of irony, language, narrative techniques, etc.

Length:

The short composition will not exceed 3.5 pages, double-spaced with "Arial" font and a size of "12". If you need to cite an author or make a comment, you can do so in a "footnote," numbered consecutively. I encourage the use of footnotes. There should be one inch on all four margins of the paper. Your name and other information should be written on the top first page, right hand margin (indented). MLA style sheet must be used.

Grammar and Style:

The composition must be impeccable. And in order to accomplish this, the writing must be free of any grammatical errors. The style must be pleasant and readable; no bumpy roads, no repetitions, and be sure to watch for your "diction," that is, proper choice of words. Remember, knowing and targeting your audience is most important. Also, be sure that you have proper transitional devices between paragraphs, and that your writing has a logical sequence and order. Above all, project your own *voice* and personality.

Contents:

Make your topic interesting to your readers. If it is boring for you, just imagine how it will bore your reading audience. Focus, focus, focus. State your argument or thesis in the first paragraph. Plan your essay beforehand: don't go beyond 3 or 4 points. And remember you must CRAFT your piece; don't slop over it; take your time and revise it at least 3 or 4 times. Start at least one or two weeks before the deadline.