*The Great Gatsby*

Essay (50 points)

Essay Due Tuesday, February 18th

You will write a 5 paragraph essay that answers one of the prompts below. Write a thoughtful, focused, and organized response. Your essay should focus on the novel as evidence—do not bring in your personal experiences or unrelated outside sources.

Essay Requirements (and tips):

* MLA style (doubled spaced, Times New Roman, 12pt font)
* 5 Paragraph MINIMUM
* Have a clear, defined thesis statement and argument (it takes a stance!)
* Includes a works cited page that correctly cites *The Great Gatsby* in MLA format.
* Includes at least 6 quotes from *The Great Gatsby* correctly cited in text that support your argument
* Each paragraph begins with a main idea statement that supports the thesis
* FOCUS on the questions of your chosen prompt!!!
* No personal pronouns (“I”, “we”, or “me,”)
* Use proper grammar, which also means in literary present tense

A typed and completed draft of this essay is due Tuesday February 18th when you come to class. That week, we will work on peer editing and revision.

The final draft of the essay will be due on Monday February 24th to TURNITIN.com AND you need to bring a printed version to class that same day.

\*Remember: This essay REQUIRES a digital AND a paper copy submission! Until BOTH are submitted a grade will not be assigned.

Pick **ONE** of the following prompts:

**Gender:** Write an essay analyzing the role of women in *The Great Gatsby*, as represented by Daisy, Jordan, and Myrtle. What kind of influence or power do they wield? Consider their social positions and interactions.

**Money:** Analyze the portrayal of wealth in the novel—the difference between “old money” and “new money” as well as the things that money can and cannot buy. What is Fitzgerald ultimately trying to say about money and materialism? What does Gatsby’s rise and fall say about the pursuit of wealth and status in the world of the novel?

**Fake vs. Real**/ **Illusion vs. Reality**: One of the main themes of the novel is how illusion is mistaken for reality. Illustrate how this is true in the various party scenes, in the empty gestures and speeches of the main characters, and in the basic fabric/construction of Jay Gatsby’s life.

**Symbols:** A symbol is a concrete object that represents an idea or a set of ideas. Choose three major symbols in the book. Explain what those symbols mean and how they function together to support a central theme. (Hint: obviously in order to respond to this prompt, you will have to identify what theme is being supported.)

**Theme**: Pick a lesson learned from the novel and show how Fitzgerald teaches the reader the lesson through the characters and actions of the novel. You may want to go back into the notes and look at the questions you wrote down- these provide a good basis for developing a theme.

**Masks:** Most of the characters in the novel put on false fronts in order to conceal their own imperfections. Identify at least three of the characters who put on these masks, their motivations for doing this, and the repercussions they suffer because of it. Use quotes, symbols, and events to support your answer.

**The American Dream:** Most would consider dreams to be positive motivators to achieve success, but the characters in the novel often take their dreams of ideal lives too far. What is Fitzgerald saying about the American Dream? How does he convey this message? Use quotes, symbols, and events to support your answer.

Works Cited

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby.* Scribner, New York. 1925.

In text citation

(Fitzgerald 20).