

### **Take-Home Formal Essay: Analyzing Drama**

The resolution (end) of a work of drama can be ambiguous, leaving the audience to speculate about what will happen to the characters after the final scene. Moreover, the ending of a play determines how we interpret the play's meaning as a whole. In your take-home formal essay on drama, you will write about the end of Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*. Your essay should address the following questions:

- 1) What do you predict will happen to the Younger family after the final scene? Based on what evidence? You must discuss specific evidence to support your hypotheses. You may want to talk about other predictions and why you don't find them plausible.
- 2) Does the ending resolve the major conflicts of the play?
- 3) What is the tone of the play's ending? (Joyful? Bittersweet? Optimistic? Ominous? Ambivalent? Etc.)
- 4) Based on what you've concluded about character development, conflict, and tone, what do you think is the play's message?

#### **Guidelines:**

- You must quote dialogue and stage directions from the play to support and illustrate your interpretation. You can use evidence from anywhere in the play, unlike our fiction assignment.
- You must cite evidence properly using MLA format
- Your essay should end with a Works Cited entry for the play (your edition).
- Your essay must be **3-4 full pages typed** in Times New Roman 12 font, double spaced (except between paragraphs), with one inch margins. **Essays less than three full pages will not be able to address the goals of the assignment effectively.** You can write more than four pages if you choose, but should not write more than five, please.
- You must turn in a **printed copy** of your essay to me; I do not accept essays via email.
- **Your essay must be the product of your own original thinking.** You should not use any outside sources for this paper. **If your essay is found to contain plagiarized language or ideas, it will receive a zero.**

**I am happy to help you with this assignment before the final copy is due—please come see me at any stage of your writing process, from brainstorming to revising.**

#### **Due Dates:**

**April 18: Peer Feedback Workshop on a two page draft**

**April 25: Final Copy due with draft attached**

\* Final copies that are turned in late will be deducted five points per weekday.