**Literary Analysis Essay**

**Length: 5 paragraphs**

**Typed, Times New Roman 12, double spaced**

**Worth: 100 pts, gold grade**

Choose the topic you would like to write about from the following list. This is a formal paper, so you cannot use slang/informal language and you cannot use I, me, you, us, our unless it’s a quotation from the novel(s). You will have class time to write the rough draft and edit each other’s drafts, but you need to type it on your own. I will try to find a time to get your class into a lab, but it’s a tight calendar.

You need to use *at least* 3 quotations from the novel. They must be documented MLA style. You also need to use the PEE method. *Point, Example, further Explain.*

If any part of your essay is copied from the internet or someone else’s paper, you will earn a zero. Do not attempt it. It’s fairly easy to catch.

**Pick one topic to write about:**

***THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD***

1. Explain the significance of the book’s title. How does it relate to Janie’s quest and the rest of the book?
2. In what ways does Janie violate typical gender boundaries? How could some of

her words or actions be seen as masculine? How might men view this as a threat?

1. Joe is the most ambitious character in the novel, determined to take his destiny

into his own hands. How does he assert his will in Eatonville? On Janie? Does

Joe succeed in achieving his goals? What does he gain and lose along the way?

1. Despite the criticism of the novel by some of Hurston’s male critics, *Their Eyes* has been characterized by some as a protest novel. What is the novel protesting? How does it voice its protest? How does it critique inequities in race, class, and gender?
2. Discuss Janie's communities--her original homes with Nanny and Logan Killicks, her time with Jody in Eatonville, and her time with Tea Cake at the "Muck." Cite the differences and similarities between the communities, focusing on how Janie fits or doesn't fit into each, and analyze the tension between individual and communal identity for Janie.
3. From the first sentence of the novel, Their Eyes emphasizes the relationship between men and women in Hurston's fictional world. Discuss Janie's relationship with her three husbands as a way to examine her character development over the course of the novel. Discuss Their Eyes as a romance novel--a love story. Why do you think Hurston chooses to end the novel with Janie alone rather than married?

OUTLINE DUE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_BRONZE

ROUGH DRAFT DUE:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_SILVER

FINAL TYPED ESSAY DUE:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_GOLD