

Documented Essay: Ibsen's *A Doll's House*
ENWR 106: College Writing II
Instructor: Catherine Keohane

Rough draft due at the beginning of class on **Monday, 12/4**. Bring **two copies** of your draft to class (minimum length for rough draft: **3** pages). You will leave one copy with me.

Revised, mid-process draft due at the beginning of class on **Thursday, 12/7** (minimum length for final: **4** double-spaced, typed pages, with one-inch margins). Bring **two copies** of your draft to class. You will leave one copy with me.

I will give you feedback on your choice of ONE of the drafts of this essay if you: 1) submit it on time; 2) annotate it (write 3-4 questions for me in the margins at the places you are most concerned about); and 3) either e-mail a copy to me (copy and paste the draft into the message; please don't send an attachment) by 5 p.m. on the draft's due date or arrange to pick up hand-written comments.

Revised/final paper due at the beginning of class on **Monday, 12/11** (*minimum* length for final: **5-7** double-spaced, typed pages, with one-inch margins). A **Works Cited list** is also required in addition to the 5-7 pp. minimum. Also turn in your peer review worksheets.

For your unit five essay, continue your exploration of the influences society and culture can have on individual identity. Explore how individuals come to understand themselves and their place in the world by analyzing one character from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. More specifically, explore the various pressures, influences, and/or stereotypes that shape or attempt to shape a character's life, perspective, and actions, and also consider if and how the character responds to these factors. In developing your analysis you must refer to *A Doll's House* and *three outside sources*, choosing from the attached list; you must use direct quotations from at least two of these sources and from Ibsen's play.

Each essay assignment this semester has asked you to explore an issue and support your point by giving examples from our readings. The documented essay is no different in this respect. I want you to continue to be the smart, reflective, and analytical writers you have grown into this semester. The small, but essential differences between this essay and the previous four are that now you are going to write a longer paper and include references to outside sources.

Although this assignment asks you to do outside reading, your main task remains the same: to produce an argument of your own drawing upon a literary text. The outside sources are meant to help you develop and deepen your own interpretation of *A Doll's House*, not to substitute for it. This essay is not a traditional research report where you regurgitate all the facts you can find about your topic; indeed, report-style papers will not pass. Instead, you are using the sources to help you understand your chosen character's ideas, behavior, self-understanding, presentation to the world, etc.

The paper must use proper MLA documentation style. Formatting information is provided in *Quick Access* on pp. 212-46, in *LB Brief* on pp. 471-517, in *Making Arguments about Literature* on pp. 203-210, and in *Hacker's A Writer's Reference* (5th ed.) on pp. 340-367. If you are using another handbook, I will help you find the appropriate pages if necessary. MLA formatting guidelines are also available from these websites: http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/p04_c08_s2.html and http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_mla.html.

To recap:

- v Length: 5-7 pages, plus the Works Cited List
- v Documentation: Correct or your essay grade will be lowered by a full letter grade (for example, an A- will become a B-)
- v Writing Style: Do not write in report-style, but use the intelligent, thoughtful, and reflective style you have been cultivating.
- v Sources: The paper must refer to *A Doll's House* and 3 outside sources. When you refer to these sources, make sure to properly acknowledge other writers' ideas and not use them out of context.

DOCUMENTED ESSAY OUTSIDE SOURCES

The outside readings for the documented essay are posted as PDF files on Blackboard (accessible using the Adobe Acrobat Reader program). I am not asking you to read literary criticism or other people's interpretation of Ibsen's play. Instead, the readings fall into three broad categories: 1) excerpts or brief selections from 19th-century conduct or advice literature [like today's self-help books] that address ideas about women (note that these are American conduct books, but can nevertheless provide relative context for Ibsen's play); 2) more theoretical discussions about gender; and 3) texts from sociology and psychology. You are free to mix and match sources from all three categories.

You may substitute one source of your own if you run it by me for approval no later than 12/7.

Note that these citations are NOT in MLA format, but the information needed to produce MLA-style citations is part of each file. All of the outside readings should be treated as works from an anthology or collection.

Cultural Context

Catharine Beecher, *A Treatise on Domestic Economy* (1841)

Susan Power, *The Ugly-Girl Papers* (1874)

Constructions of Gender

Holly Devor, "Gender Roles Behaviors and Attitudes"

Deborah Tannen, "'I'll Explain it to You': Lecturing and Listening"

Deborah Tannen, "Sex, Lies, and Conversation"

Psychology and Sociology

Erving Goffman, excerpt from *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*

Mark Karpel, "Individuation: From Fusion to Dialogue"

Abraham Maslow, "Self-Actualizing and Beyond"