12 College ISU

You will be reading a creative non-fiction book over the course of the semester. There are 2 sections to your ISU.

Part 1: Journals

You will complete 10 journals to demonstrate your understanding of the book you are reading. The journals are ANALYTIC ONLY; this means that no summary of the book is to be included in your journals. Instead, for each journal, you will need to choose a quotation and then explain its importance. Some elements of the book that the quotations might develop are:

* Introduce character
* Develop character
* Present something new about the character
* Establish relationships between characters; show how relationships change between characters
* Create or take away sympathy towards a character
* Advance the plot
* Set tone or mood
* Foreshadow upcoming events
* Create suspense

In your explanation of the quotation you need to explain not only why it is important (which element it develops) and how it develops that element (what words, phrases etc. in the quotation show us that).

Part 2: Create a Visual Essay

The next part of your ISU will revolve around the theme or thesis of your book.

You create a visual essay on your book, choosing a central theme or thesis from it and creating the visual essay around it.

As part of the visual essay you will need to research the topic and find real world (past and present) information on the topic. Your visual essay will also include information from your book, which relates to the topic.

You will then construct a video on the topic, using music, images, information, quotations etc. to develop our understanding.

You will then present this to us along with providing some background about the book you read.

Sample Journal

“You embarrass me. You embarrass yourself.” (*Crash*)

* Develop character
* Present something new about the character
* Establish relationship between characters

This quotation is said by Cameron to Anthony. It is just after Anthony has tried to jack his SUV and Cameron gets extremely angry at the cops who try to stop him. Cameron has just handed Anthony his gun back and Anthony is about to get out of the car.

This quotation reveals a lot about Cameron’s character. First of all it helps to explain why Cameron is so angry all the time, he hates the stereotypes that are imposed upon black people. It also shows us that he hates black people who re-enforce those negative stereotypes. It also demonstrates that Cameron feels a good deal of embarrassment around being a black man. It helps to explain why he is slow to stand up to those who engage with his supposed black identity in a negative way (like the cops and the tv producer) – perhaps he feels ashamed of being black. But perhaps what he really is ashamed of is that he neither accepts his black identity nor stands up for that identity and the positive aspects it can bring.

The quotation also reveals an aspect of Anthony. It could be seen as a turning point for him. Anthony is not used to another black person questioning his behaviour and choices in life, he’s used to being in control. When the tables are turned on him it makes him re-think some of his choices and you could argue that it leads to him making the good choice of releasing the Asian people smuggled in the van rather than sell them.