

Incomplete Project: “The Wrestler” Essay

The Scenario

You and Aristotle go to the movies. Yes, Aristotle has arisen from the dead, and he’s dying (not literally) to see a good film. You’re a fan of his work and casually mention that you’ve read *The Poetics* in my class. He’s impressed with your knowledge and is a big fan of my class.

Once you arrive at the movie theatre you suggest that you watch “The Wrestler” starring Micky Rourke. You’ve heard that it’s a good example of a modern tragedy and believe that watching the film with Aristotle would be quite the experience.

After the film has ended, you and Aristotle go out for some coffee. He has some strong opinions about the movie, but he wants to hear your thoughts first. He does hint that there is a connection between “The Wrestler” and *The Poetics* as well as describes that the protagonist of the film has a classic tragic flaw. He notes that “his greatest strength was also his greatest weakness.”

You want to further impress Aristotle. So, you decide to make a compelling argument that compares Randy “The Ram” Robinson to other tragic heroes proving that tragic heroes rely on their strengths too much and are blind to self-knowledge that could save their lives.

The Actual Assignment

Write a 4 page essay answering the following question:

How do tragic heroes rely on their strengths too much and become blind to self-knowledge that could save their lives?

Be sure to discuss and analyze the following course concepts:

Hamartia

Peripeteia

Anagnorsis

Tragic Irony

Structure: **In each body paragraph, trace how Randy gets closer and closer to anagnorsis but fails to finally reach it because of his hamartia.**

You must analyze at least 4 quotations from the film. Choose wisely. Make sure you have juicy quotations that truly help you highlight certain concepts.

DUE FRIDAY, JUNE 19th (emailed to devin@ucla.edu)

	INSUFFICIENT MASTERY	APPROACHING MASTERY	MASTERY	BEYOND MASTERY
THESIS	Your essay contains a thesis, but it may not be clear or relevant.	Your thesis states an argument about the text.	Your thesis states a clear argument about how the course concepts create a deeper understanding of the text.	Your thesis states a clear, original argument about how the course concepts create a deeper understanding of the text and guides your entire essay.
EVIDENCE	You address only small pieces of the film and the Poetics	You address some of the film and the Poetics	You address most of the film and the Poetics	You address the significant parts of the film and the Poetics
ANALYSIS	You do not explain or interpret the evidence. The essay mostly contains summary.	You explain only some of your evidence.	You analyze the evidence by connecting it to course concepts in a 4:1 ratio.	You clearly, persuasively and sophisticatedly analyze how your evidence connects to course concepts and supports your thesis in a 4:1 ratio.
QUOTATIONS	You either do not quote the text or improperly drop in entire quotations without having them be a part of a larger sentence.	You sometimes properly quote evidence by introducing the quotation.	You consistently quote evidence properly by introducing the quotation and provide a brief interpretation before analyzing.	You consistently quote evidence properly by introducing the quotation and provide a persuasive interpretation or multiple interpretations before analyzing.
COHESIVENESS & ORGANIZATION	You do not provide clearly identifiable topic sentences.	Your topic sentences do not clearly support your thesis statement.	Your topic sentences clearly support your thesis statement.	Your topic sentences clearly support your thesis and provide a smooth transition from one idea to the next.
GRAMMAR	Grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling have many noticeable errors.	Grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling have some noticeable errors.	Grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling have no major errors.	Grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling have no noticeable errors.

The Wrestler & Aristotle Essay

Thesis: /50	Comments:
Evidence: /100	
Analysis: /200	
Quotations: /100	
Cohesiveness/Org. /100	
Grammar /50	
Late Deduction:	
Total: /600	

