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FIQWS 10108- CP6

Prof. Von Uhl

Critical Analysis Reflection

When I heard that I had to write a Critical Analysis, I was intimidated. There is a lot to be included in that form of writing and I saw it as a challenge. I started reading the short story *Diary of a Madman* by Nikolai Gogol as soon as it was assigned. I read it twice and annotated while looking for metaphors, point-of-view, and characterization. Then I started searching for different articles on schizophrenia through the City College database. I found one article analyzing the short story and another on modern schizophrenia treatments.

My exigency in writing this paper is to get at least as good of a grade as my last paper which is a B. I found the critical analysis as way more of a challenge than the expository essay, and I am not too proud to say that I had low expectations for myself. I wrote the intro of my first draft of the essay before our first peer review because I was stuck in how I should continue. When we went over how we should structure the essay as I class, I found that to help me in my writing process. I wanted to write a good flowing and well-developed essay, but I did not know how to analyze writing motifs rather than just stating them. I tried my best to explain how the use of writing motifs helped Gogol develop schizophrenia into the narrator.

My purpose in writing this essay is to persuade the audience that the narrator in the short story *is* schizophrenic, knowing the fact that schizophrenia is not a known mental illness at the time the short story is written. I did this by comparing diagnostic symptoms of schizophrenia being used today to the symptoms portrayed in the narrator in the short story.

Devoting my time to writing this paper came with a lot of stress. Mostly because of personal issues so I struggled finding time to work on my analysis. A strategy I find helpful while writing is just writing everything on my mind down and organizing it later. As Prof. Von Uhl says, “your first draft is the ticket to the party. The party is the revision”. Revising takes me longer than writing the drafts so I put time and effort into revising.

My stance in this paper is to persuade the audience that the narrator is schizophrenic. I elaborated on how it is shown through the authors use of first-person point of view, characterization, and metaphors throughout his short story. I also discuss the ways schizophrenia has been treated during the 1800’s, comparing those methods to treatment methods being used today. My audience for this paper is Professor Von Uhl, and my peer reviewers that helped me revise my essay. My goal in my drafts is always to be able to find similarities in mine and my peer reviewer’s paper to make sure that I am staying on the right path on not writing about irrelevant things.

Overall, I would not say that this is my proudest piece of work because I was confused while writing it. I think that getting a B- is a fair grade.