**HUM 111: Ranking Tragedies—A Quantitative Literacy Assignment**

Quantitative Literacy (QL) is the ability to make calculations; it also involves the ability to make sense of numbers in an applicable, pertinent, real-world context. That being said, you will be interpreting quite a bit of quantitative data within this class in order to make a point.

For this assignment, you will be using a piece of quantitative evidence to support your claims over which are the most and least tragic pieces of literature that you’ve read in this course.

Please follow the steps below. This is the final exam in this course. I will use the Quantitative Literacy Rubric Attached to grade this assignment.

**The Assignment**

1. Read through Aristotle’s five criteria for a tragedy that are in our module, “Overview of Tragedy.” (They appear on the first page of the document.)

2. **Calculation**: Complete a calculation demonstrating the percentage of the criteria that each literary text that we have read in this class meets. You will need to be sure to show your calculations. For instance, you would have something like this (Feel free to use this table, but do not copy my Xs; I have placed them haphazardly and they do not correlate to the plots of our literary works.):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Seriousness | Language | Dramatic | Arouse Pity/Fear | Catharsis | Total | Tragedy Percentage |
| *Oedipus* | X | X | X | X | X | 5/5 | 100 |
| *Macbeth* | X | X | X |  | X | 4/5 | 80 |
| *The Great Gatsby* | X |  |  | X |  | 2/5 | 40 |
| *The Stranger* | X |  | X |  |  | 2/5 | 40 |
| *Death of a Salesman* | X |  |  | X | X | 3/5 | 60 |

3. **Interpretation:** Write a 2.5 page MLA-Formatted essay in which you use the calculations in the table that you created to rank the literary works that we’ve read in the course from most to least tragic. Your essay should include an introduction that overviews the elements of tragedy. Your body paragraphs should examine each literary work in terms of what makes them tragic, or not. (You can group two literary works together if need be. For example, I may group *The Great Gatsby* and *The Stranger* together if I had scored them as you see above.) Be sure to include your completed table at the end of your essay. The table does not count toward your length requirement.

**When you are finished with this assignment, please upload it to Canvas within our Final Exam module. The rubric that will be used to score this assignment is also on Canvas. This assignment is worth 100 points in the course.**