

First Paper
Native American Literatures in English
351.376.01
050.376.01

This paper is due in class on February 19.

Formatting

The first paper should be a full 5 **NUMBERED** pages double-spaced in a size 12 font like this one, with a title on the first page and the following information on the back of the last page in the upper right-hand corner:

Last name, first name
Paper 1
NAL

There should be 1" margins on both sides, top and bottom. Don't skip extra spaces between paragraphs or do anything else to depart from standard formatting.

Subject

You will have a choice of writing about *Love Medicine* **OR** *Ceremony*. Choose **ONE** of the following topics.

1. Mainstream American novels generally have a "leaving" plot; Native American novels have a "homing" plot. Discuss this concept in either text.
2. The Native American community in *Love Medicine* has markers of dysfunctionality such as alcoholism, violence, family fragmentation, and lack of meaningful employment. Some characters escape this pattern: write a paper about one of them, showing how the character does it.
3. Women in *Ceremony* play a number of roles, some positive, and others negative. Write a paper about one or two of them, showing what makes each character what she is.
4. Discuss the use the text makes of Native American culture, tradition, and/or beliefs in either *Ceremony* or *Love Medicine*.

Writing

Organization: your paper should consist of an introduction, a development section, and a conclusion

Once you have established the text you are writing about in the first paragraph of your paper, **keep references to the author to a minimum.**

Write impersonally. There's no need to refer to yourself ("I") or "the reader."

The paper will be **critical/analytical**; that is, you will propose a thesis for your subject in the paper's first ¶ and develop it in the body of the paper with specific evidence from the text. You must analyze each example to show its relevance to your thesis.

The thoughts of the wagon train guard exemplify the white sense of detachment from nature: "The rolling prairies were as vast and empty as a pale ocean, and the sky stretched forever, sometimes blue, sometimes slate" (FC 289). In the guard's consciousness the nonhuman aspect of the land and sky, like that of the ocean, is suggested by words indicating great size--beyond ordinary human measurement or identification.

This is the preferred way of incorporating a passage from the text into your paper. Sentence 1 introduces the quote with a colon. Sentence 2 analyzes the quotation.

My Correction Symbols

FRAG sentence fragment, a serious error of sentence structure

CS comma splice: a comma is used where you need a stronger mark of Punctuation or worse, there is no punctuation

Error: Jack and Jill went up the hill, they were never seen again.

Correct: Jack and Jill went up the hill; they were never seen again.

SP misspelling

D incorrect word

W unnecessary word or words

R repetition

AG error of agreement, usually between subject and verb

¶ the paragraph sign. Paragraphs should not be as long as a page, nor should they be very short.

TR transition needed

DANGLING MODIFIER

Error: "Constantly working overtime, the office played a large part in his life."

Correct: "Working overtime, he was constantly in the office."

