

UW Waukesha
Fall 2011
ENG101
Deets

Literary Analysis Paper on Torture

For this paper, you will analyze Franz Kafka's short story "The Penal Colony" in terms of what it illustrates about the use of torture, and particularly how torture impacts a larger culture as well as those who are tortured. (Surprisingly, Kafka also addresses how the torturer himself is impacted by having performed torture on another human being.

Due on the Last Day of Class by Midnight: December 15th.

Structure for the Three Page Paper

Introduction:

In your introduction, you will frame the modern debate on torture in the early sentences of the paragraph, and will link this into a thesis which comments on Kafka's illustrations of torture's impact on humanity.

Thesis:

In your thesis, you will answer the question: "In what way or ways does Kafka raise a question about the impact of torture on a culture/humanity?"

(Hint: those way/ways, are going to be the form of dialogue, an image, or a moment in the story.)

Body Paragraph 1:

In body paragraph 1, you will *choose a piece of evidence* from the story (an image, a line of dialogue, or a moment in a scene) and analyze it in terms of what Kafka may be intending to illustrate about torture.

Body Paragraph 2:

Do the same as in body paragraph 1, just using a *second piece of evidence*.

Conclusion:

Find a quotation from a modern day politician, human rights activist, or citizen, and integrate it into your conclusion as a compare/contrast with Kafka's arguments/illustrations.

(Hint: Dick Cheney, President Obama, HumanRightsWatch.Org, etc.)

(Hint 2: Some politicians, as well as Fox News, call what is (arguably?) torture "Enhanced Interrogation Techniques")