## BRIEF THEORETICAL ANALYSIS / RESPONSE ESSAY OF A SHORT STORY

**In this Brief Analysis Response Paper/ Essay you will be projecting your critical reading skills and your knowledge of Critical Theories learned in this course by analyzing the assigned short story "The Masque of the Red Death" by Allan Poe in terms of the 3 theories.**

**The theories to use for analysis:**

1. **Semiotics:** Denotative/Connotative/ Symbolic meaning (De Saussure’s and Pierce’s theories)

**When analyzing from the semiotic perspective, consider the meaning of the title, the names, colors of the rooms, some words/ phrases from the story and their denotative / connotative meaning in the context of the text.**

1. **Ideologies of Power, Privilege, Control** (Marx’s theory)

**Classism:** power and privilege gained through social status

**When analyzing from this perspective, you may consider if the characters in this story hold any power and have certain privilege among others based on their social status, educational level, knowledge or any skill that the characters possesses.**

1. **Gender** expectations in Patriarchal society and/or from Feminist perspectives (Butler’s theory)

**When analyzing from this perspective, you may consider if there are gender expectations imposed by the society.**

**Gender expectations can refer to the character(s) in the story or even to the colors of the rooms, the death, or anything that**

**may be gendered. Then consider if the characters or these objects abide with the gender expectations.**

**\*** For character gender expectations (including the death),you may consider the appearance, behavior, actions, lifestyle,

position/profession, and interactions with others that re-affirm their gender role/prototype expected by the society.

**For extra credit,** you may use Altruism and/or Narcissism as a separate paragraph (4th Body Paragraph) or you may refer to these terms as you are describing the character(s) through Gender or Ideology of Classism.

## Altruism and/or Narcissism:

**When analyzing from the perspective of this term, you may consider if the character(s) of the texts are selfless or self-centered; how much do they care about others.**

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**Structure of the Analysis Response Paper:**

Use an academic essay structure:

* **A brief Introduction Paragraph (4-5 sent.)**  -where you will **summarize the story in 2-3 sentences** and end **with a thesis sentence.**

Here are some examples of possible thesis statement for this paper: Your thesis can state smth like:

*The short story "The Masque of the Red Death” can be analyzed through the theories of semiotic, gender,*

*and classism ideology.*

**Or your thesis can state smth. like**: *A theoretical analysis of semiotic, gender, and classism ideology*

*will reveal the deeper meaning embedded in the short story "The Masque of the Red Death.”*

These examples are to help you generate your own thesis

* **3 Body Paragraphs (6-8 sentence each)** where you will analyze the story through one theory

For example: Body 1 will be Semiotic analysis, Body 2 will be Gender in the story,…..( \* see above as to what to consider for each theory and extra credit option. )

Make sure to relate your analysis to the story- so, refer to the text as a support to your claims/ exlanations / you may also quote from the story if needed.

* **A brief Conclusion Paragraph (3-4 sent.)**

Sum-up your analysis. You may restate the thesis statement.

**Your Theoretical Response Paper/ Essay should be 2-2.5 pages / you may also consider the length of each paragraph marked above. Your paper should be double spaced/ Times New Roman 12 font.**

**Grading Rubric**

# Analysis Response Paper- 30 points

* + Academic structure/**Paragraph length and organization- 5p**
  + **Introduction:** (Brief Summary of the story and Thesis Statement) - **5p**
  + **Body:** The use of the 3 theories -(1 in each body paragraph)- **15p** (5p each)

**Analysis of the story from each theoretical perspective - Application and reference to the text**

* **Mechanics** (clarity of ideas, sentence structure, grammar, format, etc.) **5p**