

AmlIT

Topic 4 – Creative Writing

Hamilton: An American Musical Essay Response

DIRECTIONS:

1. Watch *Hamilton: An American Musical* on Disney+
2. If you cannot watch the play, listen to the soundtrack (available on YouTube) and/or read the script (available on the class website)
3. Write a response paper that is 2 PAGES in length and contains quotes and specific examples from the play.
4. If you use outside resources besides the play to help, be sure to cite those in MLA format (Article Author, page)

Creative Writing:

1. Add a “deleted scene” to *Hamilton*. Write either a narrative or screenplay version of *Hamilton* from the perspective of one of the other characters from a portion of the musical that we did not see. This must be at least 2 pages of narrative or 5 pages of screenplay (and no, it does not need to be a rap – but EC if it is!)

Critical and Analytical Writing

1. Discuss the ways in which Alexander Hamilton is a tragic hero. Use at least 3 quotes from the musical as evidence.
2. How does Miranda display an understanding of relationships between music and history in *Hamilton*? Choose one song (or one scene from the screenplay) that illustrates the significance of the historical, social, cultural, and political ideas of the time period. Use at least 3 quotes from the musical as evidence.
3. What is significant about the casting of *Hamilton*? What does Hamilton’s status as an immigrant mean in the period, and how does it relate to America today? Use at least 3 quotes from the musical as evidence.
4. A motif in *Hamilton* states, “History has its eyes on you.” How do characters in *Hamilton* represent this motif? Compare at least TWO characters in the play and discuss how the motif applied to their experience.
5. What is significant about the casting of *Hamilton*? What does Hamilton’s status as an immigrant mean in the period, and how does it relate to America today? Use at least 3 quotes from the musical as evidence.
6. How does the story of *Hamilton* demonstrate archetypes seen throughout literature, or how is *Hamilton* reflective of the Hero’s Journey archetype?
7. Make a case for Aaron Burr as the hero of the story. Discuss the ways in which Aaron Burr is a tragic hero. Use at least 3 quotes from the musical as evidence.
8. Discuss the use of literary motifs in *Hamilton* by comparing the juxtaposition of recurring motifs. Some recurring motifs could include:
 - rushing and waiting
 - time and counting
 - helplessness and agency (controlling the situation)
 - honor and satisfaction
 - taking or throwing away your shot