***Heart of Darkness* Essay**

Due: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

You will critically analyze Heart of Darkness using one of the schools of criticism that we discussed in class. In particular, in this essay you will focus on Marlow. Your thesis should be an arguable claim about Marlow’s character. Your claim will be related to the lens through which you are looking at the text. For some, it will be necessary to explore the relationship between author and character; for others, an exploration of the social climate in which Conrad was writing will be important. It’s possible that your essay will be centered around a close reading of the text and you will not need to go beyond the pages of the novella for your central argument.

Additionally, you will find a secondary source on JSTOR which touches upon the topic of your essay. You will refute, support, or qualify the claims made in that secondary source in order to bolster your own argument.

A well-developed essay will include textual evidence in the form of direct quotes from both *Heart of Darkness* and your secondary source. Don’t forget to create a Works Cited page!

A word about sources: Everyone will use the text of *Heart of Darkness* itself and one secondary source gleaned from JSTOR. Some of you will need to do additional research. Be sure that you use a reputable, scholarly source. Please see me if you have questions about your sources. Do not simply cruise around the internet, seeing what other people have had to say about this novel; you will find plenty of material. Most of it will be inferior to what you can produce yourself. Be vigilant in avoiding plagiarism!

Since *Heart of Darkness* is a novella, sometimes the title is placed in quotes and sometimes it is italicized. I prefer that you italicize the title.

Use correct MLA format, which can be found at the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) website: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>.