FEEDBACK TUTORIAL LETTER

2nd SEMESTER 2019

ASSIGNMENT 2

THEORY AND PRACTICE OF WORLD POETRY 2B

TPP621S
Dear students

Here follows a short feedback letter on your second assignment.

Unfortunately I have to start on a serious note, which many of you will not enjoy. However, if the shoe fits....

This course you are doing is Bachelor of English (BAEN) and it requires you to do vast amounts of reading. It is also presumed that a person reading for a B.A degree (especially English) has a love of literature and a high level of English competence.

Unfortunately there are quite a few students who are really weak in English and struggle to write a sentence without errors, let alone a whole paragraph.

I have made the relevant comments in your essays. Please pay attention to these comments. At second year level the lecturer does not have the time to correct numerous language errors in sentences. Many students have lost marks due to poor language usage. The other problem is that errors make sentences clumsy and difficult to understand. You have time to have your work proofread and there should be few errors.

Unfortunately there is an even greater problem! Many students are copying (plagiarizing) vast sections of their work from sources on the internet. In an attempt to disguise this they then try and replace words in sentences with their own words. This transforms good sentences written by English-competent people into sentences which are hilarious and often senseless.

I have said this often before, and I am going to say this again:

PLEASE use your own brains, try and avoid making use of the internet for help/advice and as a source of plagiarism you believe will be undetected. Students are encouraged to read widely and use sources for information from the internet etc. This applies to full time and part time students doing assignments BUT UNFORTUNATELY it does not work well with distance students as they fall into the trap of plagiarizing most of their work. I do not want to see more than 30% of your work coming from any source. Your work should be at least 70% your own. Many students are relying (copying) on sources 60% of the time or more!

Now to the questions

Question 1 wanted you to compare and contrast the characters of Bazarov and Arkady. You also had to refer to instances from the text.
Arkady is under Bazarov’s influence. He is not a real nihilist. Your answer had to show how Arkady reacts at home and in the company of his father. Bazarov is critical and rude with the Kirsanovs, particularly Pavel. Most students did not show why Bazarov and Pavel don’t see eye to eye. Here it was important to discuss what nihilists believe and how the old generation react to this new philosophy. Arkady has empathy with Pavel and his sad past with his failed love life whereas Bazarov is very critical. Arkady is not critical or unfriendly at Bazarov’s parents.

Many students mentioned Bazarov collecting frogs but did not link this to his nihilistic life view. Why does he collect frogs?

The essay had to show how both young men are effected by love. Arkady falls in love with Katya because he is drawn to her music and love of nature. He is not a true nihilist and she makes him aware of that fact. He ends up being happily married. Bazarov falls for madame Odintsova, and when she rejects him he ends up in the same boat as Pavel.

I am not going to go into detail about other aspects you could have mentioned from the text, but I hope you can see the main ideas needed.

Question 2 Waiyaki is largely to blame for his own downfall.

Everyone did well in this question. The problem once again was that some students plagiarized heavily from sources they did not acknowledge in their text.

In the answer it is important to mention the importance of the Kiama in Waiyaki’s downfall as well as how the elders manage to discredit Waiyaki.

What are the major mistakes Waiyaki makes? They should be mentioned with details from the text.

Please pay attention to avoid the errors I have mentioned earlier.

Good luck with the exams

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