***West Side Story, Romeo & Juliet,* & *Gnomeo & Juliet***

**Comparison Essay Assignment Guidelines**

Takes notes on the chart handed to you. Some will be filled out prior to the films; the rest you will be responsible for during and after the films. Your assignment is to write about the similarities and/or differences between *WSS* ,*R&J* and *G&J*. Your essay should cover a single area and provide evidence of a relationship between the three texts: choose one area (plot, theme, characterization, setting and language or other elements). Follow the guideline of at least 300 words, but no more than 600 in length, but remember a good essay has depth and does NOT necessarily fit into a length requirement. You must have a proper introduction and conclusion, with supporting paragraphs in between. Constructing this essay as a single paragraph will result in a deduction. Not showing proper support of arguments in the form of evidence from the texts will result in a deduction.

The comparison chart will need to be attached and handed in with the assignment upon completion of the essay (**Due March 13, 2015**). Any questions, please ask Mrs. Shirey.

You will also be responsible for citing information taken directly from the play and films with quotation marks and proper documentation. If you are unfamiliar with how to do this, please ask Mrs. Shirey or visit www.owl.english.purdue.edu for instruction.

Essay should be typed in proper class format, with the heading in the right corner and a title at the top center. Fonts allowed: Arial, Times New Roman, Courier New, Calibri, Cambria. 9pt-12 pt size. Any others will result in a deduction.

There will also be a visual component to this essay. Once you’ve chosen your element to focus on, create a visual representation of what you’re discussing in your essay. We’ll post those around the room and outside the classroom to display what knowledge you’ve gained from each of the three texts.

Other guidelines will be discussed in class. TAKE NOTES! You are responsible for knowing what to do and what not to do. PLAGIARISM of any source or any kind will result in a zero grade. It is NOT TOLERATED!

NOTES/OTHER GUIDELINES:

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Using your book version of *Romeo & Juliet*, we listed the information below. You’ll need to do this to add to your paper due on **March 13, 2015**. We also went over how to add the entry for *Gnomeo & Juliet* and *West Side Story.* Please ask a friend for notes so you can get caught up.

**A Work in an Anthology, Reference, or Collection**

Works may include an essay in an edited collection or anthology, or a chapter of a book. The basic form is for this sort of citation is as follows:

Lastname, First name. "Title of Essay/Work." *Title of Collection*. Ed. Editor's Name(s). Place of Publication: Publisher, Year. Page range of entry. Medium of Publication.

Some examples:

Harris, Muriel. "Talk to Me: Engaging Reluctant Writers." *A Tutor's Guide: Helping Writers One to One*. Ed. Ben Rafoth. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2000. 24-34. Print.

Swanson, Gunnar. "Graphic Design Education as a Liberal Art: Design and Knowledge in the University and The 'Real World.'" *The Education of a Graphic Designer*. Ed. Steven Heller. New York: Allworth Press, 1998. 13-24. Print.

#### Films or Movies

List films (in theaters or not yet on DVD or video) by their title. Include the name of the director, the film studio or distributor, and the release year. If relevant, list performer names after the director’s name. Use the abbreviation perf. to head the list. List film as the medium of publication. To cite a DVD or other video recording, see “Recorded Films and Movies” below.

The Usual Suspects. Dir. Bryan Singer. Perf. Kevin Spacey, Gabriel Byrne, Chazz Palminteri, Stephen Baldwin, and Benecio del Toro. Polygram, 1995. Film.

To emphasize specific performers (perf.) or directors (dir.), begin the citation with the name of the desired performer or director, followed by the appropriate abbreviation.

Lucas, George, dir. Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope. Twentieth Century Fox, 1977. Film.

**Recorded Films or Movies**

List films by their title. Include the name of the director, the distributor, and the release year. If relevant, list performer names after the director’s name. Use the abbreviation *perf*. to head the list. End the entry with the appropriate medium of publication (e.g. DVD, VHS, Laser disc).

*Ed Wood*. Dir. Tim Burton. Perf. Johnny Depp, Martin Landau, Sarah Jessica Parker, Patricia Arquette. Touchstone, 1994. DVD.