Response 2

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English 3005W: Survey of American Literatures and Cultures I

Due: Thursday, February 28

Instructions: Please address one of the following questions in an essay of 1-2 pages (double spaced). Please include page numbers and a heading, both in MLA style, in your essay. Title the essay Response 2 (centered, after your heading). You may (to gain some practice at titling your writing) but are not required to provide a subtitle that reflects the ideas in your essay. A Works Cited page is not required.

1. Discuss a seeming paradox or contradiction (a logical incongruity or inconsistency) in one text from Weeks 3-6. Whether or not the text is self-conscious of this paradox or contradiction how does the narrator or speaker rationalize or resolve it? Examples: Mary Rowlandson’s depiction of the Indians in New England as alternately influenced by Satan and God; John Winthrop’s description of the Puritans’ covenant with God as both “delightful” and burdensome (Winthrop 157); the attitude of the speaker of Anne Bradstreet’s poem “The Author to Her Book” to being “exposed to public view” (Bradstreet 205, line 4); etc.

2. Discuss one theme that two to three texts from Weeks 3-6 have in common. How do the authors’ treatments of this theme compare and contrast? Consider such factors as the author’s mood about and the use s/he makes of this theme. Examples: Reverence for Native Americans’ oratory skills in Thomas Jefferson’s “Query VI” in Notes on the State of Virginia (444) and Benjamin Franklin’s “Remarks Concerning the Savages of North America” (468-472); the representations of a parent’s feelings for his/her children in poems by Anne Bradstreet (202-214), Edward Taylor (278-287), and Sarah Josepha Hale (352-353).

3. Select one or two images from the “American Passages: A Literary Survey” archive online (accessed through the Norton Anthology Student website at www2.wwnorton.com/college/English/naal7 by clicking on “Authors” and “Search the archive for images”) associated with one text from Weeks 3-6. In what ways does the text compare and contrast to the ideas conveyed by your selected image/s? (Please identify your selected image/s by creator or title and include archive serial number/s in parentheses.)

Grading:
The following are worth 20 points each: the essay (1) responds to one (and only one) of the questions above, (2) is organized coherently and effectively, with logical transitions between
ideas and paragraphs, (3) excludes evaluation and judgment, (4) includes specific analytical claims about textual evidence—evidence should be incorporated into your own sentences as quotations, of no more than three lines, or paraphrases of the text/s— and (5) follows established rules of grammar, syntax, and spelling.

Letter grades correlate to numeric scores as follows:

\[\begin{align*}
A+ &= \text{score of 97-99}, \quad A &= \text{score of 93-96}, \quad A- &= \text{score of 90-92} \\
B+ &= \text{score of 87-89}, \quad B &= \text{score of 83-86}, \quad B- &= \text{score of 80-82} \\
C+ &= \text{score of 77-79}, \quad C &= \text{score of 73-76}, \quad C- &= \text{score of 70-72} \\
D+ &= \text{score of 67-69}, \quad D &= \text{score of 63-66}, \quad D- &= \text{score of 60-62} \\
F &= \text{score below 60}
\end{align*}\]

You earn 0 points if the assignment is plagiarized or if you do not submit the assignment.