**Library Worksheet**

Be sure to bring this to class on Tuesday, October 22. You should fill part of it out ahead of time (particularly 3-6) and the rest you should fill out after the library orientation. This should give you specific questions and thoughts as you interact with the librarian.

1. We live in a world where information is instantly at our fingertips. It is incredibly easy to find the answers to basic questions by using tools like Google, Yahoo!, Bing, or Wikipedia. However, for this assignment you must use resources found either in books or in the library databases and the sources must be of academic quality. Why do you think general web sources might not be the best place to find information for this essay?
2. What is an “academic” source? What does it mean that an article has been “peer-reviewed”? How can you tell what kind of source you are finding?
3. What short story have you chosen for your essay and what aspect of “place” are you considering as a framework?
4. Based on your initial reading of the story, what is your beginning thesis argument? (Remember that it should include a “because” clause and that it will most likely evolve over the course of rereading and researching)
5. What initial questions do you have for me or for the librarian concerning the research you will need to do?
6. Based on your thesis argument and your initial questions, brainstorm at least 6 search terms or phrases you can use (either alone or in connection with each other) to start research. Think about synonyms and alternate terms.
7. Find and list 2-3 library databases that you think will be useful for your research. Don’t forget to look at literary databases, but, based on your lens of place, you may need historical, sociological, psychological, religious, or other sources as well.
8. In at least one of the databases from above attempt 3-4 searches using your search terms. Try combining searches with Boolean logic to narrow or broaden the results. Note which combinations you used and how many results came up with each. (Remember that Boolean logic uses AND, OR, or NOT – e.g. Lottery AND nature will bring up only items that contain both words [narrows the search], Lottery OR nature will bring up everything that has either word [broadens the search], Lottery NOT nature will bring up only things that contain Lottery and do not contain nature) *I will be reviewing this with them prior to the library session*
9. Take a look at the list of sources that comes up when you search. What kinds of resources are available? Are they in different formats? What is the difference between a book review, article, or abstract? Are there any other terms that pop up that seem confusing or with which you are unfamiliar?
10. Based on the searching you did in #8 list 2-4 sources you think will be useful for your paper.
11. Choose one of the above sources and answer the following questions.

What kind of a source is it? (journal article, review, encyclopedia entry, etc.)

Where/how was the source published? (in a book? an academic journal? on a website?)

Who is the author? What kind of authority do they have to write on the topic?

How will the source help you answer your thesis questions or support your arguments?

Based on the answers to these questions is this an appropriate source for your research essay?

Why or why not?

1. Think about your experience in working through these steps. What was easy? What was challenging? What was the most useful new thing that you learned from the orientation and your searches? Write a research log entry of at least 100 words to answer these questions and comment on any other aspects that you want to note.

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Based on IF outcomes for ENGL 1202