Challenges for enslaved women. Choose one or two of the works that you have read, listened to, or watched to date. Write a thesis-driven essay of 750-1000 words (double spaced). You may choose to write about a theme such as the use of religion or the unique challenges for enslaved women. You may focus on how a piece of writing may have been used as an abolitionist tool. You may want to write about the way in which an argument has been constructed in writing or orally. writing Guidelines and MLA Style Content and composition are equally important. College papers use formal language, so omit slang such as the term a lot personal references such as I or vague references such as it or you. Eliminate obvious statements such as: I will discuss… or This essay will show… Basic Essay Structure Introduction Mention the name of the authors and titles if you are writing about a text Create a thesis statement your assertion about the works which you will prove using evidence from the texts a thesis may be argumentative or informative is expressed in a complete thought sentence is not too specific and not too general is expressed concisely, assertively and logically. The thesis is not a question. Introductions should be longer than one sentence; in other words, the thesis itself is not your introduction. While the thesis may be located in different places in some essays, your thesis should be the last sentence of your introduction. Body Develop topic sentences main ideas for your paragraphs; just as thesis statements are main ideas for your essays. Offer primary support details support the thesis or secondary support details which expand on primary support); support should show, explain, or prove. Integrate and provide context for quotes and examples. Document quotations appropriately if you are quoting from a source by using intext citations. Conclusion Echo and stress the importance of the main idea of the essay. Make a prediction or end with a question, an anecdote, or a quote. Works Cited List or Bibliography If you are citing from primary or secondary sources, list all cited sources on a works cited list. If you are using information from primary or secondary sources, but you are not quoting directly from those sources, list all sources on a bibliography. An essay is not complete without documentation. The use of direct quotes without in-text citations or without a works cited list is a form of plagiarism. Provide proper documentation. Formatting . Create a one-inch margin on each side and a half-inch margin on the top and at the bottom of your document standard format on a computer. 2. Double space. 3. Write your name, the date, your instructor’s name, the course title, and the name of the assignment in the upper left-hand corner of the first page of your paper. 4. Place one line space between the title and the beginning of your essay. 5. Indent paragraphs-tab or five spaces. 5. Use page numbers preceded by your last name on each page. (ex. Smith 1, Smith 2) 6. Use a 12-point Times New Roman or Garamond. 7. Create a title for everything you write. Your title should indicate your perspective. Center the title at the top of your page, one space below your heading. 8. Do not use a cover sheet/title page. Editing & Proofreading 1. Re-read everything you write asking yourself if someone else would understand your points. 2. Pay attention to subject-verb agreement, fused sentences, comma splices, fragments, pronoun usage, dangling and misplaced modifiers, parallelism, clarity, shifts in tense and person, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. When writing about literature, write in the present tense. 3. Spell out numbers under ten as well as all contractions and abbreviations. 4. Punctuate and capitalize titles correctly: poems/short stories/essays take quotation marks books/plays take italics student titles do not take quotes or italics exception—titles of works within the student essay title do take proper punctuation-- ex) The Role of Women in The Handmaid’s Tale. Citing Sources Use MLA documentation style to document all sources. Use the quick reference MLA guide on the NCC library’s website. Sample In-Text Citations: The author writes, “Young Goodman Brown caught hold of a tree for support, being ready to sink down on the ground, faint and overburdened with the heavy sickness of his heart” (Hawthorne 200). The narrator explains, “When the man reached the highest hill, the bells were ringing in the city below” (Lispector 400). \*\*If you have already mentioned the work in your paper, you do not need to include the author’s name in the citation. Sample Works Cited Entry: When you use materials from an outside source, you must include a works cited list at the end of your paper. Please see the MLA guide handbook or the quick reference MLA guide on the NCC library’s website for examples. Use the MLA guide to determine what type of source you have and which format to use. General Rules for the Works Cited List: Center the heading (Work Cited /Works Cited) at the top of the page--no bold, no underline, the same size (and color) font as the rest of the paper. Punctuate titles within the works cited entries properly. Use the entire line—margin to margin—before going to the next line in an entry. Indent lines after the first in each entry (5 spaces/tab space). Separate entries by one space. Alphabetize the list. Sample Entry: Selection from an Anthology (one editor) Lispector, Clarice. “The Crime of the Mathematics Professor.” The Oxford Book of Latin American Short Stories. Edited by Roberto González Echevarría, Oxford University Press, 1997, pp.400-405. Sample Entry: Selection from an Anthology (more than one editor) Copeland, Edward. “Money.” The Cambridge Companion to Jane Austen, edited by Copeland and Juliet McMaster, Cambridge UP, 1997, pp. 131-48. Sample Entry: Article from an Online Database Goldman, Anne. “Questions of Transport: Reading Primo Levi Reading Dante.” The Georgia Review, vol. 64, no. 1, spring 2010, pp. 69-88. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/41403188. Sample Entry: Book by One Author Esquivel, Laura. Like Water for Chocolate. Anchor Books, 1989. Video help for MLA style works cited lists.