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Using Voyant to Analyze a Novel

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Using Voyant to Analyze a Novel

Dr. Ashley Reese

After spending several weeks discussing this novel in class, you are now going to write a formal essay on the novel. However, instead of forming an opinion of the text on your own, you're going to use the digital tool Voyant (voyant-tools.org) to do so. Voyant is no substitute for your own observations and analysis of the text; however, the tool can help you discover information about the text you might not have noticed otherwise. Most likely, the tool will direct you back to the text. Is there a trend in word usage you didn't notice before? Read around those words to see what that might mean for the themes / your analysis. Is someone's name appearing more or less frequently than you were expecting? Read around those names to inform your argument.

Your essay will still be an argument based on your analysis of the novel; however, in the conclusion, to address the "so what" aspect of the paper, discuss the use of the tool Voyant: did it help you discover the argument? was it a hindrance? would you have been able to come to these conclusions without the tool? Provide your reader with insight into using a digital tool (in this case, Voyant) to analyze a novel.

The essay should incorporate at least **one peer-reviewed article**. This article should be about literature and/or about the novel. A **works cited and citations** are to be included. These should be **2-3 pages** in length.

Longer essays must be submitted in hard copy, even when late (please put under my office door). For each day that an essay is late, 10 points will be deducted from the final grade. You will submit all of your work in hard copy form (single sided, double spaced, Times New Roman, 12-point font) in class, with Canvas submissions occurring only when noted on the assignment page. Please note that work submitted by email will not be accepted.

Rubric (100 points)

90-100: Essay offers unique perspective on class readings. Peer-reviewed source is incorporated into the essay in a way that enhances the argument. Voyant is addressed in the conclusion. Paper format is correct. Grammar is correct, and the paper has a clear argument.

75-89: Essay addresses class readings in a cohesive manner. Peer-reviewed source is incorporated, but does not necessarily add to the argument of the paper. Voyant is mentioned by name in the conclusion. Paper format is mostly correct. Grammar is mostly correct, and the paper has an argument.

60-75: Essay mentions class readings, but does not directly address the readings. Peer-reviewed source is barely used or not cited at all. Voyant is not mentioned in the conclusion. Paper format is somewhat correct. Grammar is incorrect, and the paper has an unclear argument.

0-59: Essay fails to address class readings. Peer-reviewed source is absent. Voyant is not mentioned in the conclusion. Paper format is incorrect. Grammar is incorrect, and the paper has no argument.