Prompt:
From its conception, critics and admirers have been describing Lin-Manuel Miranda’s *Hamilton: An American Musical* as revolutionary. While its setting makes this description an irresistible play on words, does the claim stand up to scrutiny? Does *Hamilton* challenge the status quo or does it reinforce traditional ideas?

**Topic choices:**
The portrayal of America’s birth and its founding fathers (history)
The portrayal of women and men and their roles/expectations (gender)
The portrayal of race and slavery (race)
The portrayal of immigrants and America as an immigrant nation (immigrants)

**Page-length requirements:**
- Honors, 3-4 pages
- CP, 2-3 pages

**Historians’ articles (include at least 1):**
- “Can We Get Back to Politics? Please?” (history)
- “Race-Conscious Casting and the Erasure of the Black Past in Hamilton” (race)
- “The Greatest City in the World?” (race)
- “Remember . . . I’m Your Man” (gender)
- “Hamilton as Founders Chic: A Neo-Federalist, Antislavery Usable Past?” (history, race, immigrants, gender by a stretch)
- “Reckoning with America’s Racial Past, Present, and Future in Hamilton” (race, gender by a stretch)
- “Who Tells Your Story? Hamilton as a People’s History” (all)
- “Hamilton: A New American Civic Myth” (all)

**Pre-writing Outline & Conference:**
We will use the outline as a tool for conferencing about your paper. Sharing a Word doc with an adequate outline (10) and participating in a conference with me (5) will be worth **15 points**. I will offer some medium options (video chat, audio chat, notebook conversation) for conferencing during the week of 4/20.

Informal means that you do not have to use the formal outline elements (pattern of Roman, numerals, letters, numbers, indentation, etc.) in your outline. If you include the following in your outline doc and it is easy to read and follow, you will be set. Remember, an outline is a tool to manage ideas and organization in a rough form.

Include the following in your informal outline:

- A clear thesis that sets up your argument
- A series of claims you will make to develop your argument in the order you plan to make them
- How and where you will address the opposition
- What songs/quotations you will use and where you will place them
- What articles/quotations you will use and where you will place them
Hamilton Position Paper

Honors English 12

Name _______________________

Rubric

The writer’s argument shows a strong understanding of the content and ideas of the musical and the chosen topic. /10 points

_____ includes effective references, including quotations, to 2 or more songs
_____ includes effective references, including quotations, to at least 1 source (historians’ articles)
_____ develops points using relevant, thought-provoking arguments
_____ develops points with depth and original insight
_____ uses the opposition to expand and elaborate upon ideas
_____ broadens to a meaningful conclusion that proceeds from the argument

The writer uses a clear organization pattern to support the reader’s understanding. /10 points

_____ provides a clear, direct thesis early in the essay to capture the writer’s argument
_____ uses CLEW paragraphing to establish and support clear claims
_____ organizes ideas (paragraphs) to support the reader’s progression through the main points
_____ uses transitional phrases and words to guide the reader
_____ addresses the opposition at key, appropriate places

The writer’s argument shows a balanced development of the 3 persuasive appeals. /10 points

_____ uses logical, clear explanations to support claims
_____ avoids logical fallacies and assumptions/leaps in understanding
_____ addresses the opposition to support the writer’s logical, open-minded thought process
_____ uses references from at least 1 source (historians’ articles) to develop credibility
_____ avoids biased, unethical language and claims to show sincerity and credibility
_____ includes an original title, a hook and a persuasive closing to draw the audience’s interest
_____ uses limited, appropriate rhetorical and figurative devices to create emphasis, meaning, and engagement

The writer’s final draft is a polished, edited product appropriate for an academic audience. /10 points

_____ follows MLA style to format the document
_____ follows MLA style and academic conventions to format, integrate, and cite quotations
_____ creates an MLA-style works cited page
_____ follows formal, academic writing conventions as suited to the assignment
_____ uses fair, unbiased, academic word choice
_____ edits to eliminate mechanical, usage, grammar, and spelling issues

Comments:

Total: /40 points