Describing Map Assignment

Describing Maps are visual tools used to help students identify important aspects of anything being analyzed. We will use them throughout the semester to better understand the impact of characters, settings, events, etc.

GOAL: Create a describing map with four entries (see below) for any one person of interest about whom you can find and document concrete evidence. In the past, most students have chosen to utilize the internet to research their favorite musician, actor, athlete, author, historical or political figure, etc. Some have even chosen to use this as an opportunity to map a character in the book they are reading, as it will be a requirement later in the course.

DUE: _________________________________________

There should be at least 4 ENTRIES to complete 1 MAP = 40 points TOTAL

1. Adjective (1 point)  
   
   -- select a term that best describes a major characteristic of the subject of the map; consider the subject’s physicality, personality, and motivations

2. Definition (2 points)  
   
   -- include a dictionary definition (1 point) that is reworded to include specifics (1 point) about the subject being evaluated; the two statements may be provided separately

3. Evidence (7 points)  
   
   a. Quote  
      
      a. supply a direct citation from the source (2 points)  
      (this does not necessarily need to be dialogue directly quoted from the subject; there are many biographies and articles about notable people in society)
   
   b. MLA format  
      
      b. document the source accessed for concrete evidence using MLA format (2 points)
   
   c. Justification  
      
      c. create an explanation that connects the direct quote to the adjective chosen (3 points)

Example of a single ENTRY:

Roald Dahl

1. (Adjective) Insightful

2. (Definition) Showing or having insight; perceptive. Dahl was able to revisit the perspectives of children as an adult, allowing him to communicate with younger generations to come.

3. (Quote) “I have a theory of my own, that all small children are at war with adults...because they are being disciplined all the time” (Roald Dahl: In his own words).  


5. (Justification) Dahl has been able to reach both children and adults when addressing the continuous confrontation between the two. His ability to return to the mindset of his own childhood was exceptional. For me, he has helped me return to the point of view of a child, which aids me in my professional and personal lives. While most adults typically deserve the command they’ve inherited, it is always important to hear the voices of children and their own imaginative insights.

The full example, Describing Map Example: Roald Dahl, may be viewed on our web site under the “Lamb to the Slaughter” heading.