11H/Bonakdar

Modernism: *The Great Gatsby* and *Citizen Kane*

Name: Date: Block:

***“Mr. Kane was a man who got everything he wanted and then lost it. Maybe Rosebud was something he couldn't get, or something he lost. Anyway, it wouldn't have explained anything... I don't think any word can explain a man's life. No, I guess Rosebud is just a...piece in a jigsaw puzzle...a missing piece.”***

*Citizen Kane, Co-written by Herman* Mankiewicz and Orson Wells, Directed by Welles, 1941

***"[Gatsby] wanted to recover something, some idea of himself perhaps, that had gone into loving Daisy. His life had been confused and disordered since then, but if he could once return to a certain starting place and go over it all slowly, he could find out what that thing was.***

Modernist Magazine—a quarterly magazine focusing on modernist design in architecture, furniture, jewelry, and decorative arts—has decided to launch a new section expanding their current subject matter to modernism in literature and film. A prominent film and literary critic, you have been asked to author the debut essay for this new section, which will be featured on Modernist Magazine’s website this month. The essay topic is to be a response to modernist elements present in the film *Citizen Kane (1941)* and the novel *The Great Gatsby (1925)*. You are encouraged not only to focus on the narrative, but also to incorporate your knowledge of film and/or writing *techniques* (i.e. how camera angles and perspective in *Kane* add to our understanding of the film text; how syntax and point of view add perspective in *Gatsby; etc.)*.

* Remember, your thesis must be OPINION, not fact, and must be grounded in textual evidence.
* Please refer to your class notes on modernist attributes (loss of innocence, isolation/alienation, chaos, lack of truth, materialism) in *The Great Gatsby* to help you generate ideas.
* As always, you will be graded on the English Department Writing Rubric. Additionally, I will be looking for **at least two** examples of how film technique enhances the viewer’s understanding of *Citizen Kane.*

\*Your thesis **does not have to be directly about modernism** and **does not have to be a theme statement**; however, you must connect your thesis to modernism (i.e. a modernist element) somewhere in your intro and/or conclusion. Likewise, you will connect your thesis to a universal idea in your essay.

1. Look through your notes and brainstorm ideas. Is there anything you find particularly interesting? Think of topics such as use of symbols, motifs, the function of minor characters, tragic flaws, dreams, role of women, role of friendship, the use of a modernist element, etc.

2. Watch the film taking notes on topics of interest.

3. Plan your essay!