

## El informe. (otoño 2009—6-IX-09)

This is a portfolio-eligible assignment. It should be 5 pages long (7 max.) and use MLA documentation style (parenthetical documentation within the text followed by an "Obras citadas" page--see the MLA Handbook, Diana Hacker's manual or the link to her website on the class page. You may also consult the Writing Center for legitimate help (they won't write the *informe* for you). "Obras citadas" = "Works Cited" in Spanish. There should be at least three sources *other than* the textbook, and only one can be from the web. The pages themselves will be typed or printed double-spaced in a 10 or 12 point font with one-inch margins. One to two letter grade penalty for failure to comply.

The material you write will be divided into two parts. You will probably work on the parts separately, but the finished product should be written as one paper. In addition to the mechanics discussed above, criteria for evaluation of the *informe* include: a) quality of the content (good information and presentation of same, plus the quality of the literary analysis), b) appropriate and effective use of supporting materials, c) correct use of Castilian.

### First part: Information on the author.

1. **Information to include:** When did this person live? Is he/she still alive? To what period in literary history does the author belong? Is he/she considered part of a literary movement or group (e.g. romanticismo or realismo)? Is he/she considered typical for the time? [Note the characteristics considered "typical" of that period or the author for use in the second part]. In what genres (poetry, short stories...) does the person write? What are his/her most famous work(s)? Why are they famous? Is there anything else noteworthy about this person?
2. **How to find information:**
  - Read any introductory material in the text.
  - Go to the library. Check a general reference for Spanish literature such as the *Oxford Companion to Spanish Literature* (in the reference section—leave it out on the counter/table so the library will know it is being used ☺) to get some initial information.
  - Look up the author and the period in NKUIRE (subject and author searches) to see if we have books specifically about the author or his/her time. Don't forget subject headings like "Spanish literature--Classical period". Remember, editions of an author's works also have introductions containing the type of information you are looking for and bibliographic information on other books and articles that may be of use.
  - The NKU library now has a subscription to an on-line version of the MLA bibliography, which can lead you to articles about your author. It also has electronic archives of journal articles. Any source that was once printed, but is now archived electronically, counts as a printed source (example: J-stor).
  - Do run an internet search. The internet is accumulating more information every year, BUT be skeptical about what you find—*anyone* can publish an article or put out information without first submitting it for verification, and as a result, some of the stuff out there is rather bizarre, *including* Wikipedia. Because the internet is so fluid, it is most important that you include the date you read the information on-line on your **Obras citadas** page.
  - Depending on the author you choose, some of you may want to go to the University of Cincinnati library (their catalog is searchable on line), but you do not have to get material unavailable locally, the way you would for an honors thesis.
  - You'll probably want to accumulate five or six sources to look at, figuring that not all of them will end up cited in your *informe*. On the indicated date in the course calendar, you will be asked to show the professor a preliminary bibliography, listing the sources you have found up to that point.

### Second part: Commentary on the selection(s) provided in the anthology or designated by the professor.

1. **Read the designated selection(s)** at least twice before beginning this section, to be sure you understand it well. Look up the words you don't know. Check your comprehension against any exercises provided.
2. **Situate the selection** in the context of the author's work: a) Is it a complete work (entire poem or short story) or an excerpt from a longer work (which work and where does it fall within it?) b) Where does the selection (or the longer work it comes from) fall within the author's production--is it part of a poetry or short story

collection? When was it written? Does it correspond to a particular period in the author's career (misspent youth, sober/stuffy old age, on the romantic rebound...)?

3. **Explain** in what ways the selection exemplifies (or doesn't) the characteristics typical of the period and/or author. **Use examples from the selection to support what you say.**
4. **Discuss one or two of the literary aspects** of the selection (use of imagery/symbol, communication of the theme, effect created by point of view or use of language, character portrayal, etc.). If appropriate, you can compare the selection to a similar one read in class. **Use examples from the selection to support what you say.**
5. **What is your personal response to the selection?** Is it good, bad, beautiful, ugly, boring, fascinating....? What characteristics of the selection make it that way? Do not merely state your reaction. Give reasons for it. **Use examples from the selection to support what you say.**
6. **Write a conclusion.**

### Checklists

You are not required to use these, but they may help those who lack a memory for details (I'm told sleep deprivation can cause this, but of course no one at NKU has such problems ☺. Enjoy!)

#### A. Research and analysis.

- I have read any introductory material on my author and his/her period in *Milenio*.
- I have read the material on my author and his/her period in *A Literary History of Spain* or other general reference for Spanish literature.
- I have looked up my author and his/her period in NKUIRE and in the MLA bibliography.
- I have read the material I found in our library, taken notes, and put my notes where I will remember to find them.
- I have looked up my author and his/her period on-line. I have read the material I found, taken notes....
- If I have not found enough sources, I have gone to the UC or Cincinnati Public Libraries to get more.
- I have read the selection written by my author that is included in *Milenio* or designated by the profe.
- I have looked up all the unfamiliar words.
- I have read the selection again.
- I have learned where the selection falls within the author's works and career.
- I have worked out how the selection exemplifies the characteristics of the author/period and/or I have analyzed one or two literary aspects of the selection. I have examples from the text that support what I say.
- I have determined my personal response to the selection and why I had that response. I have examples from the text that support what I say.

#### B. Mechanics

- My name is on my paper.
- My paper is 5 *w-h-o-l-e* pages long (but no more than 7).
- My paper has one-inch margins.
- My paper is double-spaced.
- My paper uses a 10 or 12 point font.
- My direct quotations from outside sources are in the original language. My paraphrases are in my own Spanish words (OJO: translation is not paraphrase).
- My paper uses parenthetical documentation in MLA style.
- My paper has a separate **Obras citadas** page at the end. It is page 6 (or 7 or 8). The entries are in MLA style.
- I have given credit to all my sources.
- I have not listed works in the **Obras citadas** that were not cited in my paper.
- I have proofread my paper for spelling and accent marks.
- I have proofread my paper for grammar and agreement errors.
- I have proofread my documentation for violations of MLA style.
- I have backed up my computer file and placed the copy where I can find it when I certify my program (applies to all Spanish majors and to Spanish minors with teaching certification).
- Both the hard and the electronic copies are out of reach of my domestic menagerie («Lo comió el perro» no sirve).
- I have not submitted my paper in a plastic report cover (a paper clip or a staple is cheaper & there is no static electricity to zap computer disks, the profe's hair, etc.).