Proposal for Feminist and Gender Criticism Theory Assignment

Overview:
I am analyzing male hierarchy and the stereotypes of both the female and male characters in Ernst Hemingway’s short story “Hills Like White Elephants”. Throughout the story we can see male and female stereotypes portrayed by both the American (the male character) and Jig (the female character) through their miscommunication. Later in the story however, Jig tries to challenge the stereotypes. Which leads to my thesis: Through the male and female stereotypes portrayed in the short story, “Hills Like White Elephants”, they help prove that male hierarchy exists; however, we can see the female character try to break free of it. It is important to examine the portrayal of realistic and relevant stereotypes in literature to help us better understand the society that we live in. With examining these characters, we can apply what we learn from their story to our own lives. It can help us to better understand stereotypes and what they look like but also see how they are detrimental to the way we communicate with and relate to one another.

Outline:

❖ Introduction
  ▪ Introduce male and female stereotypes
  ▪ Introduce male hierarchy
  ▪ Discuss they are a problem in our society
  ▪ Give thesis

❖ First Body Paragraph
  ➢ Give background information about the story
    ▪ Point out they are talking about abortion
    ▪ Tell what the title “Hills Like White Elephants” means
• Tell why the title is relevant to the rest of the paper

❖ Second Body Paragraph: Topic sentence: The spoken and unspoken communication between the American and Jig portrays male and female stereotypes—the male is dominant and female is submissive.

➢ Support 1: Quotes from short story “Hills Like White Elephants”

➢ Support 2: Gender-Linked Miscommunication in “Hills Like White Elephants”
  ▪ Discuss how men communicate
  ▪ Discuss how women communicate
  ▪ Compare differences
  ▪ Make connections to quotes and characters in the short story

➢ Support 3: The Hemingway Touch
  ▪ Unspoken and spoken communication
  ▪ Connected to characters

❖ Third Body Paragraph: Topic Sentence: Although Jig portrays female stereotypes, we can also see her attempt to challenge male hierarchy and female stereotypes towards the end of the story; even though we never see what she chooses.

➢ Support 1: Quotes from short story

➢ Support 2: Hemingway’s Women’s Movement
  ▪ Point out selfishness of the American
  ▪ Show Jig’s protest to what the American says

➢ Support 3: Forget the Legend and Read the Work: Teaching Two Short Stories by Ernest Hemingway
  ▪ Show Jig’s maturity of situation
● Connect to quotes from Short story

❖ Conclusion:
  ➢ Restate thesis
  ➢ Restate main topic sentences
  ➢ Give examples of why gender stereotypes are important to recognize

Abstracts:


Stephen R. Portch’s “The Hemingway Touch” discusses the style that Hemingway created. He talks about the way Hemingway uses unspoken communication to reveal the real meaning of his stories. It is between the actual dialogue that is most important.


“Hemingway’s Women’s Movement” by Charles J. Nolan Jr. challenges the idea that all of Hemingway’s female characters meant to be hated because he himself is portrayed as a woman-hater. He claims that there are female characters in Hemingway’s stories that we are meant to have sympathy for. He uses the texts: “Up in Michigan”, “Out of Season”, “Cat in the Rain”, “The End of Something”, “The Sun Also Rises”, “Hills Like White Elephants”, “The Snows of Kilimanjaro”, and To Have and Have Not, to support his claims.
Margaret Bauer is arguing that people should read stories or books without listening to preconceived notions of them. She debates that students read Hemingway knowing that scholars say he is a misogynist, therefore, they read his texts through the idea that he is a woman-hater. However, Bauer is challenging that Hemingway has created protagonist female characters in his short stories “Indian Camp” and “Hills Like White Elephants”.

Smiley, Pamela. "Gender-Linked Miscommunication in "Hills Like White Elephants""


In Pamela Smiley’s article, “Gender-Linked Miscommunication in “Hills Like White Elephants””, She discusses the different ways that men and women communicate. Men are straightforward while women are more focused on who they are talking to. She then connects these ways of communicating to the characters in Ernest Hemingway’s short story “Hills Like White Elephants”.

**Timeline:**

**Week One:**

- Read over assignment
- Look for a story or poem to write paper on
- Read story

**Week Two:**
• Create Thesis
• Find articles/ sources
• Write and turn in proposal
• Begin to write paper

Week Three:

• Continue to write paper
• Edit and revise paper
• Turn in paper October 27