

Winthrop University
College of Visual and Performing Arts
Department of Theatre and Dance
SAMPLE ASSIGNMENT

THRT 385: Theatre History and Literature I

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WRITING THE COMPARISON ESSAY

Consider the drama, *Shakuntala*, by Kalidasa.

Write an essay that compares some elements of *Shakuntala* with one other drama that we have read so far. You could compare characterization, production elements, the dramatists' style, the structure, the mythical bases for the stories, etc. Most importantly, FOCUS your comparison to one of these kinds of topics. Say a lot about a very small subject rather than saying a little about many subjects.

Your goal is to demonstrate that you have a grasp of some of the historical events about *Shakuntala*, about the drama you are comparing with *Shakuntala*, and about some of the theatrical and literary concepts that have been raised in class, etc. In short, let this essay reveal your intellectual acuity and critical thinking ability.

The essay should be somewhere between 2000 and 2500 words.

EXPECTATIONS ABOUT WRITING QUALITY

For juniors or seniors at Winthrop University, the expectations about writing competency include:

1. students refine their own writing processes--they edit and revise independently.
2. students write with sophisticated style, showing superior ability to organize for emphasis.
3. students demonstrate a command of grammar (including a sense of when rules may be violated), mature use of diction, syntax and mechanics.
4. students conduct discipline-specific research independently.
5. students rely on their background knowledge to evaluate sources of information. They form valid, insightful inferences and posit innovative hypotheses.
6. students demonstrate almost perfect mastery of documentation systems. (*For this course, the instructor does not dictate a specific style manual. Just be consistent with the one you choose. Go to: <http://www.winthrop.edu/dacus/About/leaflets.htm> or <http://www.winthrop.edu/wcenter/handoutsnew.htm> for APA, MLA and other manuals of style*)
7. students analyze advanced readings and other materials within the major. They generalize in a manner that shows superior ability to synthesize ideas. They support conclusions with relevant illustrations, examples and/or evidence.
8. students form deductive generalizations.