Lord of the Flies Unit Essay (5 paragraph)

Consider one of the following prompts for your unit essay. Please discuss with the instructor any other possible topic choices in advance.

1. Consider how the boys’ miniature society represents a **microcosm** of a larger world.   
*Possible questions to consider:* What opinions or insights (of society, politics, power, culture, human nature) does this microcosmic allegory establish? What patterns in human behavior can we establish based on the allegory of the boys on the island?   
Consider Plato’s “Allegory of the Cave” as an example of how allegory can provide deeper insights into modern human behavior.

2. Consider **Freud’s theory of the three personalities** (id, ego, superego) and how they are represented on the island.  
*Possible questions to consider:* What lessons do we learn about dealing with various types of personalities? What are the consequences of an unbalanced personality? How are certain personalities more suitable for various functions or responsibilities?   
Go beyond merely assigning personality types to various characters. Explore solutions to deeper thematic questions.

3. Consider one or more of the **lenses** **of interpretation** and how one might contribute a fresh understanding of the novel.   
*Possible questions to consider:* Why is one lens the most valuable for interpreting a text? How can different lenses create a variety of experiences with the text?

4. Develop a thorough analysis on a major theme of the novel.

Example: Consider evidence of fear and mental instability in the novel and how they contribute to violence or degeneration.   
*Possible questions to consider:* How does fear and isolation lead to violence and insanity? What are the psychological effects of fear? What are the results of various coping strategies when dealing with fear?   
Hunt for stylistically profound language in the novel and interpret it deeply to make connections to your theme on some aspect of human nature.

Essay Requirements

- Due on turnitin.com Monday Dec. 11th. Other due dates for outlines, rough drafts, and in-class writing activities will precede the due date and must be completed on time to earn credit.

- Neatly typed and edited; standard font, double-spaced. Include a title, introduction + thesis, body, and conclusion.   
- Include at least 8-10 pieces of cited evidence from the novel (quotes or specific paraphrases with exact page numbers)   
- Use appropriate MLA formatting for citations   
- Use paragraphing effectively to indicate shifts and transitions in your argument.   
- Follow up your citations with interpretive, analytical “lead out” sentences.

With the short stories, we solidified our understanding of body paragraph structure. With “Paul's Case”, we plotted a larger, structured argument with a strong thesis (central argument), introduction and conclusion, along with other transitional structures within our body paragraphs.

With this essay, we are reinforcing the structure of argument with a large scope in mind. Centering this argument ought to be a monumental thesis which is thematic and argumentative, and makes profound insight into human behavior. We are strengthening our focus on style, tone, and depth. Aim for strong attitudes and opinions implicit in your word choice, supported by logical evidence and insight. This is a major assessment of the semester in your ability to interpret the elements of literature. Consider as well the unit’s focus on the sociological, psychological, and philosophical ways of thinking.