

Name:
Date:

Period:
Ms. Lopez



HOLLYWOOD & THE PYGMALION MYTH: **PYGMALION COMPARATIVE PAPER**



Throughout the 20th century until the present, there have been plays, musicals, and movies that illustrate people's continuing fascination with the ancient Greek myth of Pygmalion. Your task is to write a three page, typed, double spaced research paper in which you compare, contrast, and evaluate the variations in interpretations of the Pygmalion myth that are seen through literary elements and techniques (such as *characterization, setting, theme, irony, conflict*, etc.) To that end, we have already read George Bernard Shaw's 1913 play, Pygmalion. You will now read the original ancient Greek Pygmalion myth. In addition, you either will view or read the musical My Fair Lady (1956), and you will select one modern film listed below that borrows from this myth. You will conclude your paper by citing which version appeals most to you and why.

Be sure to:

- ◆ include a brief summary of the original Pygmalion myth.
- ◆ identify and explain one (1) similarity *in literary elements or techniques* **AND** one (1) difference *in literary elements or techniques* between the original myth and Shaw's Pygmalion. Use relevant quotations from both sources to support your claims.
- ◆ identify and explain one (1) similarity *in literary elements or techniques* **AND** one (1) difference *in literary elements or techniques* between Shaw's Pygmalion and the musical My Fair Lady. Use relevant quotations from both sources to support your claims.
- ◆ identify and explain one (1) similarity *in literary elements or techniques* **AND** one (1) difference *in literary elements or techniques* between the modern film and Shaw's Pygmalion *and/or* the musical My Fair Lady. Use relevant quotations from both sources to support your claims.
- ◆ select a favorite version and defend your selection.
(**DO NOT USE 1ST OR 2ND PERSON PRONOUNS**).
- ◆ use MLA format, including parenthetical citations and a Works Cited page.
- ◆ organize your ideas in a logical and coherent manner.
- ◆ use language that communicates ideas effectively.
- ◆ follow the conventions of standard written English.

Modern Film Choices:

Watch **one** of the following modern films using the Pygmalion myth:



Miss Congeniality (2000)
Pretty Woman (1990)
The Princess Diaries (2001)

Rated PG-13
Rated R (Note from Parent Required)
Rated G



You can rent these films at your local video store or borrow them from the library. I suggest that several of you get together to watch a film. It will make the task more fun; furthermore, you will not be stuck waiting for someone to return the film so you can watch it. (Since you will need quotes, plan for much rewinding and plenty of note taking during the film. See if you can turn on the closed captions to help you. Also, remember you have a written copy of My Fair Lady included in your book.)

The Paper Will Count 3x in Your 3rd Quarter Average