



SA1.1: Defining the Monster

This week we have examined a historical survey of monsters and thought about how words and images can have multiple meanings, connotative and denotative, that affect the way we perceive them. For your first short assignment you will write a definition paper about the word “monster.”

To do this you will:

1. Make an argument about your own definition of the term “monster” that will support a 2-3 page paper.
2. Consider both the denoted and connoted meanings of “monster.”
3. Draw from your personal experience, examples from pop culture, and/or the presentation in class.
4. Do not use outside sources such as a dictionary. This assignment is meant to explore your own thinking on the topic.

Helpful Tips:

- Stay focused on a single idea. Don’t get side-tracked considering related terms like “fear,” “horror,” or “ugly.”
- Link the ideas in the body of your paper to your argument. For example, if you want to talk about pop culture representations of monsters, consider how those representations reinforce or challenge your own argument.
- Keep your audience in mind. Who is your audience and what information can you assume they will know-what cultural references will go over their heads?
- Have fun! Find something in the topic that you enjoy. The more you enjoy writing the paper, the more your audience will enjoy reading it.

Due: 01/14/13

Outcomes targeted: _____