

Sci Fi Assignments/ENG 220

Our next paper will be due on : Three pages plus works cited (if you cite works). Criteria: coherence, mechanics, and content/imagination.

The topic will be up to you; however, you will need to choose one of the formats described below, or propose an alternative:

Avant-garde Story: Using Ray Bradbury's "There Shall Come Soft Rains" as a model, write a sci-fi story without any characters, or without a setting.

Alternative Format: Using Pamela Zoline's "The Heat Death of the Universe" as a model, write a story or essay using numbered paragraphs or other innovation in format.

Dramatic Monologue: Using Richard Matheson's "Born of Man and Woman" as a model, write a narrative from the point of view of someone or something other than yourself – someone or something extremely different from you: a sentient comet, Frankenstein's monster, etc. Feel free to use improvisations in spelling and grammar if that will help you develop the character, as per Matheson.

Dialogue: Write a script for a movie scene in which two characters discuss a scientific or sci-fi concept, e.g., Darwin and God on human origins, Neo and HAL on machine intelligence, yourself and your clone on the ethics and opportunities of cloning, etc. Use standard prose dialogue format, using paragraph breaks and quotations marks to distinguish the speakers, and a paragraph introduction to set the scene. (See Hemingway's "Hills like White Elephants.")

Parable: Using Kafka, Borges, or Jesus as models, write a story or narrative with a double meaning. Following the model of Mathew 13, please explain the coded message at the end of your text.

On , we will work on the assignment in class, including a peer review. Please bring at least a title and a half-page précis of your project.