**ENC 1102: Comparing/Contrasting “The Yellow Wallpaper” and “Sweat”**

Step 1: Read and discuss “The Yellow Wallpaper.”

1. Main characters—Narrator and John (Static or dynamic? Motivations? Descriptions? How do they affect each other? Which is the more dominant?)
2. Setting—How does it influence the story? What does it reveal about plot or characters?
3. Plot—Think about the how the story begins (exposition); how the story builds (rising actions); and the “big reveal” (climax) and the parting visual (resolution).
4. Theme—What does this story reveal to us about mental states? Women? Entrapment? The dynamic between husband and wife? The power of the mind? Resilience? Wealth? (And others—feel free to come up with your own themes.)

Step 2: Read and discuss “Sweat.”

1. Main characters—Delia and Sykes (Static or dynamic? Motivations? Descriptions? How do they affect each other? Which is the more dominant?)
2. Setting—How does it influence the story? What does it reveal about plot or characters?
3. Plot—Think about the how the story begins (exposition); how the story builds (rising actions); and the “big reveal” (climax) and the parting visual (resolution).
4. Theme—What does this story reveal to us about mental states? Women? Entrapment? The dynamic between husband and wife? The power of the mind? Resilience? Poverty? (And others—feel free to come up with your own themes.)

Step 3: Decide if “The Yellow Wallpaper” and “Sweat” are similar or different in meaning.

I’d probably get my thoughts straight with some sort of graphic organizer. Remember the Venn Diagram? (Two circles which overlap). Or a chart of character, setting, plot, theme…. Bottom line, decide on how the themes of the stories are similar and/or different.

Step 4: Decide on a common or contrasting theme between the two stories.

Write one paragraph explaining what you think; text evidence which supports it; and commentary (a more detailed explanation of the theme you’ve selected).

* Topic sentence: Include both titles; say whether or not they compare or contrast; and mention *generally* how (the basic theme you’ve chosen).
* Text evidence: For this assignment, don’t worry about direct quotes. Just paraphrase or list parts of the story which support your topic sentence.
* Commentary: Here’s the main part of your paragraph, your chance to explain what you mean. What *exactly* do these stories’ comparisons or contrasts say about the theme you chose? How does this theme make us think or act?