

“The Yellow Wall-Paper” Writing Project

Instructions: Choose one of the three topics listed below and compose an essay that is well-constructed, thoroughly-supported response, and approximately 4-5 pages in length. Demonstrate your understanding of “The Yellow Wall-Paper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman and the four primary source readings discussed in previous classes and available on the exhibition’s website.

1. How does Gilman’s use of imagery highlight the gender assumptions of her time? Support your responses with examples from the exhibition materials and primary source documents as well as quotes from Gilman in your response.
2. Compare and contrast the attitude toward mental illness as depicted in the fiction and non-fiction selections you have read. Provide examples from the readings of the exhibition and the primary source documents. Also, explain whether these attitudes have changed in today’s society and, if so, how?
3. Explain how Gilman uses “The Yellow Wall-Paper” as social criticism. Include as evidence the exhibition materials and primary source documents as well as quotes from Gilman in your response. Extend your response to connect or compare/contrast to the social condition as it exists today.

It may be helpful for you to outline the key ideas of your essay by first identifying the main points of your thesis statement and topic sentences for three body paragraphs as outlined below:

Main points of thesis statement:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Body 1 topic sentence/statement:

Body 2 topic sentence/statement:

Body 3 topic sentence/statement: