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Casting of 'Geisha' causes controversy

'Saw' sequel better than the original

Writing an essay made easy

FEATURES

The Writing Center

Knowing basic structure of essay makes writing easier

By Amanda Taylor
WRITING CENTER PEER TUTOR

The easiest way to structure a paper is to use the standard five paragraph format. This familiar structure keeps the writer focused and on topic, helps to include vital information, and makes revisions without accidentally omitting pertinent details. This organization enables students to write clearer papers. The standard five paragraph paper consists of an introductory paragraph, three body paragraphs that give reasons or evidence supporting the paper's thesis, and a concluding paragraph.

The introductory paragraph includes the thesis and forecasts evidence that will appear in the next three paragraphs. The thesis statement is the central controlling idea that focuses the paper. It serves as the blueprint

for the paper. The thesis statement allows writers to narrow a broad topic into a precise statement.

The three body paragraphs each begin with a topic sentence that defines a point supporting the thesis. Every topic sentence heads its own paragraph and every sentence that follows must relate directly to the topic sentence. While it is not necessary that the topic sentence appear in the first line, inexperienced writers often prefer to focus the paragraph from its first sentence.

The concluding paragraph summarizes points covered throughout the paper. The conclusion restates reasons and ends with a closing thought. Do not introduce new ideas in the conclusion and do not restate the thesis word for word.

Trilogy of ghetto superstars keeps readers spellbound in 'Around the Way Girls 2'

By Tamika Green
ARGUS REPORTER

What do Lyric Crenshaw, Juicy Brown, and Precious Paine have in common? They're all girls from "around the way." In "Around the Way Girls 2," readers find a new set of girls dealing with life on the streets of Brooklyn, N.Y. This sequel to "Around the Way Girls" is a collection of three short stories about young black women who are street smart, but still have a lot to learn about life.

Lyric, Juicy, and Precious all come from different backgrounds and face various trials and tribulations during their journeys from know-it-all teens to wiser, more mature young adults.

Kashamba Williams' "The Life of Juicy Brown" is a hard-core look into the life of a young woman who grew up too fast for her own good. The 30-year-old Juicy is faced with constant struggles as the single mother of five children. However, she does not allow this to get in the way of her favorite pastimes, which include drinking, smoking, clubbing and other not so motherly activities.

"Diamond n Da Rough" by Thomas Long tells the story of young Precious Paine, the daughter of drug-addicted parents. Her difficult childhood causes her to become a hardened spirit who believes everyone is out to get her. Precious' life consists of stealing and using men to get whatever

she wants. Her two best friends and her mother's crack-addicted friend join her in her schemes, which soon catch up with her. She believes that she has everything she ever wanted in life, but still feels that something is missing.

"Who Got Game?" by Lajill Hunt tells the story of self-proclaimed diva Lyric Crenshaw who is determined to be on top of her game. Lyric believes she has to use her assets to get what she wants in life, otherwise meaning she uses men for money and gifts. She vows to never fall in love, but after meeting Jeremiah, she begins to think twice about her vow and her scheming ways.

Each story of the lives of the young women was very entertaining and well written. The authors combined just the right amount of comedy, tragedy, and drama to make each story unique and interesting. The readers are able to relate to the characters' situations and emotions. These stories will keep readers turning that next page, wondering what is going to happen next in the lives of these relatable, yet somewhat dysfunctional, ghetto superstars.

"Around the Way Girls 2,"
Authors: Lajill Hunt,
Kashamba Williams, Thomas Long
Publisher: Urban Books
Format: Paperback 304 pages
List Price: \$14.95

'Memoirs of a Geisha' kicks up a storm in Japan and China over a Chinese woman in a Japanese role

By Tim Johnson and Emi Doi
KRT WIRE SERVICE

BEIJING

China and Japan, which are usually at each other's throats over something, finally seem to agree on one thing: Hollywood's latest release is a cultural dud.

Hollywood's "Memoirs of a Geisha," which had its world premiere in Tokyo recently, has triggered consternation in Japan because none of the three lead actresses are Japanese; two of them are Chinese and another is an ethnic Chinese from Malaysia.

Citizens polled about the matter in Tokyo questioned why Hollywood chose Chinese actresses to portray geishas, quintessentially Japanese women trained in traditional arts of singing, dancing and accompanying wealthy men.

If there's dismay in Japan, there's outrage in China, but for a different reason: Many Chinese are beside themselves that the film's star, Zhang Ziyi, China's best-known actress, is depicted in the movie as having sexual relations with a Japanese man.

"She deserves to be chopped into a thousand bits," said one Internet user, one of more than 1,000 people who posted on the subject at the Tianji (Sky's Edge) Web portal.

"She should be deprived of Chinese citizenship," another posting said.

Relations between China and Japan are at a low ebb. Despite deepening economic ties with Japan, China still



Zhang (l) and Ken Watanabe star in Columbia Pictures' "Memoirs of a Geisha."

harbors bitter feelings toward Japan dating to the period before and during World War II, when Japan invaded large parts of China and dealt brutally with the Chinese people.

The film, which was released recently in the United States, is an international production. Its director is American Rob Marshall. In addition to Zhang Ziyi, the movie stars Japanese actor Ken Watanabe ("The Last Samurai"), Chinese actress Gong Li and Malaysian martial-arts star Michelle Yeoh, an ethnic Chinese who's playing the role of mentor to the movie's protagonist.

This time being multicultural doesn't help.

'The Gospel' fails to keep the faith

Evelyn Robinson
ARGUS REPORTER

Sniffing, sighs of disappointment, harmonizing voices and lip smacking produced a cacophony of sounds at a recent showing of the movie "The Gospel."

"The Gospel" is a movie that is touching yet disappointing. The plot is based on the biblical parable of the Prodigal Son. However, very few scriptures were quoted, the church services were not realistic, the singing was fake and the acting

was bad. The attempt to woo the crowd with gospel performances by Yolanda Adams, Hezekiah Walker and Martha Munizzi proved to be the best part of the movie.

Boris Kodjoe, who lip-synched throughout the movie, played the prodigal son to Clifton Powell, who played the pastor. Kodjoe did not fit the role that he played. This was his first major role in a movie. His unbelievable musical scene and his over dramatized small scenes make the movie a disappointment.

The casting of actual preachers could have helped pull off a realistic, believable reenactment of the parable. A few action-packed scenes saved the movie from a total disaster, but overall this movie is filled with cliches, predictable scenes and bad acting (I have to admit that the singing was good, however). In my view, it barely deserves a three-star on the Roger Ebert scale. "The Gospel" is not a total waste of money, but my advice is wait for it to come out on cable.

There isn't an exact timetable for moving a relationship to the next level of intimacy

Dear Quill: Will a guy respect you more if you wait to have sex with him or does it not even matter at all? My male friend told me that a man doesn't look at you any differently; if you both want each other it doesn't matter.



PARKER

However, I think having sex too early messes up your future relationship up. What do you think? Thank you — Keep it real, please.
Dear Keep it Real: Ok, you're right about that ... sorta. There is such thing as having sex too early in a relationship, and it can very well mess things up. However, there is no set

time to wait either. I've heard that a lot of women think that you should wait at least six months before having sex with someone. Well, I hate to say it, but a guy could simply be putting up a front the entire six months and then get what he wants. It is never about how much time you spend with the person you're interested in. What matters is how honest both of you are with each other. Quality not quantity. Ya dig?

Dear Quill: I was wondering: how do you approach your roommate that acts like she's your best friend but she goes back and talks bad about you to your other friends? Before we were roommates, we were best friends. The minute we became roommates we drifted apart because she won't be truthful to me. How do I approach her?

— Wondering
Dear Wondering: If she talks behind your back then you already know what kind of friend she is. Now just be choosy about the information you give up to her. The best way to confront someone, when you don't know where exactly you stand, is respectfully. Coming at her with an attitude will only fan the fire. I would simply ask her what's the deal. Ask her direct questions; that way she can't weasel out of them. If it becomes clear that you two are no longer friends and the relationship is beyond reconciliation, then the only thing you can do at that point is chalk one up to experience.

Dear Quill: How do I tell if a girl likes me or just wants to be friends? Sometimes I feel like I have feelings towards a

lot of girls; what's up with that? — Confused

Dear Confused: If you want to know how the girl feels about you, ask her. There are ways to ask how she perceives her relationship with you without making you look like an idiot. Obviously you know this girl, so that means you're familiar with her personality, at least a little bit. If she likes you as anything more than a friend, it will come up eventually. As far as your "feelings" for all these girls goes, you can't have strong feelings for everybody. And you shouldn't like someone just because they like you. That doesn't get you anywhere, and you'll just end up settling for less than what you actually wanted in the first place. Find your fit. One of the keys to a fruitful life is learning to be content with yourself.

Sequel, 'Saw 2,' actually better than the original film

By Tamika Green
ARGUS REPORTER

"Saw 2" is one of those rare sequels that's actually better than its predecessor. It's a bit hard to believe that the writers came up with such a great movie such a short time after the release of "Saw" last year. It is an exciting combination of excellent special effects and creative plot twists that

keeps the audience wondering what is going to happen next.

"Saw 2" finds the Jigsaw serial killer (Tobin Bell) back to his old tricks of making people more appreciative of their lives by putting them in situations in which they must almost always carry out some grisly deed in order to save their own lives. A group of cops, led

by Detective Eric Matthews (Donnie Wahlberg), captures Jigsaw. They attempt to get him to disclose the location of the most recent victims of his newest game who are trapped in a house with a deadly nerve agent before time runs out. This case has a special meaning for Matthews because one of the eight victims is his son Daniel (Erik Knudsen).

This movie is equipped with all of the horrific booby-traps of "Saw," but with a bit more edge. There is also an interesting surprise ending that, although a bit predictable if you pay close enough attention throughout the movie, is a welcome surprise. The acting is not excellent, but who cares when there is such an

interesting story line to overshadow it?

To fully understand what is happening, it's probably best if you have already seen the original movie before going to see "Saw 2" since there are a few flashbacks to the first movie.

This movie is 91 minutes of pure psychological thrills and chills. "Saw 2" definitely makes the cut in my book.

Genre: Horror / Thriller
Rating: R (gruesome violence and gore, terror, language, drug content)

Cast: Donnie Wahlberg, Franky G, Glenn Plummer, Emmanuelle Vaugier, Shawnee Smith

Directed by: Darren Bousman

Produced by: Stacey Testro (II), Leigh Whannell, Peter Block