Engl 3840.003
Spring 2017
Essay 1 Assignment

DUE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7 (hard-copy; in class; no emailed copies)

- 500-word limit
- 12 pt. font; double-spaced
- quotes from week 2 reading assignments, specifically by Howells or Bonnin/Zitkala-Sa.
- Use MLA format, including works cited.

Write a 500-word essay that engages with ONE particular question below. Choose only ONE question. Do not write your essay as a response to more than one question.

State your position in regard to the question. Make an argument and support it with at least two quotes from the relevant story. Do not conduct outside research for this essay. Use only your own analysis of the text and the text itself as your source material.

Make sure you write a strong, argumentative thesis statement. Please put your thesis statement in **bold face type.**

1. "Editha" reveals the protagonist as reflecting on her actions as a woman and on George's actions as a man. How do these assumptions about gender roles impact the story? Do you agree with these gender role assumptions? Why or why not?
2. "Editha" stages a debate about war and its significance to Americans. Does this story ultimately argue for or against war backed by the U.S.? On what evidence in the story do you base your claim?
3. In *The School Days of an Indian Girl*, Zitkala-Sa states that she disobeys her mother's wishes by going to college. How do you explain her mother's objection to her college education? What place does education hold in her mother's world in distinction from her own experiences? How does her mother's objection to her education impact Zitkala-Sa's college experience?
4. In "Why I Am a Pagan," Zitkala-Sa offers an alternative to conventional Christianity. Do you find her appeal for paganism convincing? Why or why not? What aspects of paganism appeal to you, or which aspects of paganism (as she describes it) repel you?
5. Make your own theme or argument. Please consult with me via email or office hours at least a week before the essay is due to finalize your own argument.