

**Thank you for your interest in being a tutor at the Beren Writing Center! We welcome applicants on a rolling basis, so please apply whenever you like.**

Eligible applicants:

- Are currently enrolled undergraduates at Stern College for Women
- Have completed ENG1100 or the equivalent
- Have visited the Writing Center as a client at least once
- Will attend Stern for at least 1 more year

Instructions:

Please address the following five prompts in a Word or PDF document. Submit your completed materials (your five prompt responses plus your writing sample referenced in the fourth bullet point) to Prof. Gina Grimaldi at [ggrimald@yu.edu](mailto:ggrimald@yu.edu).

- Tutoring in the Beren Writing Center involves active listening, when a tutor listens to her client and reflects back to the client her understanding of what the client has said. Describe a situation in which you've practiced active listening.
- Think about how it felt to be tutored during a past Beren Writing Center session. What do you remember? What was productive about your session? What do you wish happened that didn't happen? Based on your experience, what do you think is the most important quality in a writing tutor?
- Describe the process that you go through when you revise an academic essay. What are the questions you ask yourself? What are the kinds of things you find yourself working on as you move from one draft to the next?
- Submit an example of your own academic writing, along with a statement of what you

would want to revise.

- Respond to the below Sample Student Essay, considering the following: based on what you see in the draft, describe the stage that the writer is at in her process (i.e., is she brainstorming or pre-writing? Is this a final draft? something in between?) What is something this writer has done well? What are the two most important things to work on in this paper and why? How would you go about talking about these issues with a student?

Sample Student Essay:

The Great Gatsby Close Reading Essay

In F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel, *The Great Gatsby* the narrator and one of the main characters in the book is Nick Caraway. Nick leaves his life in the Midwest to move to New York and learn the bond business. Nick grew up in a pretty well-off family, not rich but not poor. Nick is portrayed to be someone who is not the type of person to get involved in a lot of drama. He is an overall well-rounded man. Nick lives in a tiny, low income home by Gatsby's huge mansion. By just looking at where he lives, it is clear that he is very different from Gatsby and Tom. Nick seems very reserved, quiet and definitely not rich. However, in chapter two of the novel, when Tom brings him along to his apartment in New York City, instead of hating every minute of it and wanting to go home, he gets into the party (29). The party itself seems very childish and not a party that you would find a bunch of working adults at, let alone Nick. Nick is willingly dragged into this party, he did not insist on leaving early, as a matter of fact he even stays out all night and has to take a very late train back home. Nick sees this world as a fantasy. Not necessarily a good fantasy. It's a place where you can escape and do what you, and ultimately be who you want to be want, but it's okay because you have all the money in the world. In chapter one at the meal at the Buchannan's house it is clearly myrtle calling to speak

to Tom. Daisy knows that Tom is having an affair, yet she doesn't say anything, do anything or try to get him to come clean (14). Daisy does not do anything because she lives this fantasy life. Nick understands that when you live life like this you can really do and get away with anything you want. In the apartment party scene Nick says "I have been drunk just twice in my life, and the second time was that afternoon; so, everything that happened has a dim, hazy cast over it, although until after eight o'clock the apartment was full of cheerful sun" (29). Nick is not the type of person to get drunk, he doesn't party and he doesn't do anything that could get him in trouble. Through close reading of this scene at the apartment it guided me to wonder that if Nick sees this world as the type fantasy that he would not want to live in than why does he want to be involved in the drama? Nick wants to understand this new world and the people inside of it and by doing so he attempts at fitting in.

Nick is trying to understand the people which he now finds himself involved with and why they live the way they live. Nick just moved to this new city, he now has a new life with all these new people. Nick feels like he is a little bit better than everyone else but he just wants to understand them. Again, from the scene in the apartment Nick goes along not because he wants to become friends with all of Tom's friends and to get drunk with them but he wants to see first-hand why they live with no care in the world. Nick says in the first chapter "In my younger and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since. "Whenever you feel like criticizing any one," he told me, "just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had" (1). Nick understands what his father tells him. Everyone who Nick is now involved with either grew up very rich and did not have the childhood of a regular family, or they inherited a lot of money as an adult, more than they know what to do with. Nick does not want to judge or criticize anyone but he wants to understand why they live these crazy and sometimes emotionless lives. Nick goes along with all

the drama and parties to understand what they're doing. What better way to understand the new people than to try and fit in with them.

Nick is like a student at a new school, he just wants to be invited to all the birthday parties and be friends with the cool kids, no matter who they are. It's possible that because Nick is new to the town he will do anything and try anything to attempt at fitting in. In chapter three, when Nick is invited to Gatsby's party he is over excited and is also over analyzing the situation. Nick says,

I had been actually invited. A chauffeur in a uniform of robin's-egg blue crossed my lawn early that Saturday morning with a surprisingly formal note from his employer: the honor would be entirely Gatsby's, it said, if I would attend his "little party" that night. He had seen me several times, and had intended to call on me long before, but a peculiar combination of circumstances had prevented it — signed Jay Gatsby, in a majestic hand (41).

Nick reads the invitation and is so excited that he is finally invited to the famous Gatsby party. This could have been just a friendly invite from his new neighbor but since Nick is so desperate to fit in to this new world, he reads the invitation and dissects it. He even comments on Gatsby's hand writing. No one who is just simply invited to a party analyzes the invitation so closely. Nick just wants to fit in. In chapter four Gatsby takes Nick to lunch and afterward Gatsby comments on the fact that he made Nick a little upset in the car. Nick answers harshly, he says "I don't like mysteries," I answered, "and I don't understand why you won't come out frankly and tell me what you want. Why has it all got to come through Miss Baker?" (71). From Nick's response, it is clear that he has no patience for half answers, the lies, and the drama. He didn't really want to be there with all those people that he has nothing in common with. He just wants to be told the truth, but yet, he is so eager to fit in that he is still willing to go places with Gatsby that he knows he won't enjoy.

Nick is very different from everyone that he met in New York. Even his own cousin Daisy is nothing like him. Nick moves to New York for a job, he has a tiny house and not a lot of

money, but sees this new life and has all these questions. It is clear that Nick does not want to live the rest of his life involved in this life because he left after Gatsby is murdered and never looks back. However, he participates in the drama but is not that type of person. He is doing it because he sees this world as a fantasy and wants to try and understand everything about the people and their lives and he does so by trying to fit in.

#### Works Cited

Fitzgerald, F Scott. *The Great Gatsby* . Scribner, 2004.