

Alexa Bolesta

ENC1102

October 28, 2010

### Cover Letter

When I began the process of writing my second paper, I was still a tad unsure regarding how I was going to execute it. My first idea was to write about the morbid history of fairy tales. The sexual themes, cannibalism, and use of bodily mutilation in old fairy tales were all things I was vaguely aware of and truly wanted to learn more about. However, finding good source material on the subject proved to be fairly difficult and I soon switched my attention to sexism in fairy tales and how it still influences modern society. The final product, after a bit of polishing and modifying, has greatly pleased me.

The first paragraph opens with a narrative depicting the beginning of fairy tales as yarns told around the fire place. The definition of fairy tales, I realized, was unclear. I narrowed it down to old European tales that have been refurnished and refabricated. I used imagery to paint a picture of their history and then gradually narrowed my focus into the topic of my paper. One of my peers commented that it took them a few seconds to learn what my paper was about truly because of the opening narrative. However, I chose not to change it. Placing the thesis statement in the first few sentences, to me, is simply not good writing. I have learned that one must begin with a broad opening in the first paragraph before narrowing down to their eventual topic. I made sure my thesis statement was fairly clear and adjusted it slightly when I was told it could be stronger.

For my main topics of discussion, I chose the feminine beauty ideal, the portrayal of women as subservient and solely dependent on men in a patriarchal world, and the promotion of a strict initiation into womanhood and happiness through marriage alone. At first, I tried to

Alexa Bolesta

ENC1102

October 28, 2010

#### Cover Letter

clump these ideas in massive paragraphs of their own. However, I was assisted by my professor in breaking them up into smaller paragraphs which greatly aided the flow of the overall paper. My own voice was not peeking through enough at first and I was prompted to add more of it as well as a greater quantity of references to modern society.

I abstained from writing the feature article version of the paper after being told to focus only on the MLA version. This came as a great shock to me and I have made an effort to make sure this opportunity to further polish and perfect my essay was not given in vain. What began as an eight page paper, eventually became a ten page paper after I was finished with all of my revisions. I took all the professor's suggestions to heart and adjusted each part on of the paper I was told needed tweaking, adding, or rewording.

Writing this paper has been an enjoyable and enriching experience and I was pleased to come to love my topic. It was fun to research, interesting, and hopefully manages to grasp the reader's attention. In the end, I can only hope others find the final product as good as I have tried to make it and that my messages effectively shines through to at least one person who reads it.