

Short Assignment 1 Danyelle Graham

For this assignment the overall topic I wanted to examine is desire (specifically the desire for power) and how it can be life threatening. The question I will be attempting to answer is “How did desire affect Voldemort psychologically and therefore lead to his overall demise?” I derived at this question by conducting a google search on the themes in the Harry Potter books and came across an article with a short paragraph which spoke about how Voldemort’s craving for power changed his overall perception on life and lead to his downfall. The points made in the article were ones I’d never thought about and therefore made me want to investigate further into the issue of whether or not desire can affect one’s mind, in Voldemort’s case, turn them evil and what it can lead to, for both the individual and those around him.

Understanding the damaging effects of something as instinctive and automatic as desire is important for any individual. Continuous craving is the foundation of addiction. Addiction starts by desiring something (tangible or not) which eventually develops in to an unhealthy obsession that the addict might do anything to sustain. Therefore I think if individuals are aware of the imminent danger of desire then it can make them more cautious and have better control over their cravings. The group of individuals I think are most at risk of losing control are teenagers and adolescents because their level of maturity and lack of experience. Voldemort’s quest for power started at a young age (with him looking for information about horcruxes) and developed as he got older. Voldemort was willing to do almost anything including killing someone of the highest importance to him in order to obtain a powerful object which ended up being in vain.

The order in which I want to present the research is first by giving an overall generalization of what desire is and the effects (mental), if there are any general one that aren’t specific to a particular craving. Then I want to discuss power, relating it back to Voldemort. I also want to use other examples in the book such as the hallows and the mirror of erised, but I’m not sure if mentioning that would be another question all together, make my paper to lengthy or if I could just use them as small examples.

I’m still not sure how exactly I want to present this research assignment as yet considering the audience. Because I’m not sure if I should broaden by audience, because this is a topic that can literally affect anyone, or just focus on a younger immature audience comprising of mostly teenagers and could also include addicts. The broader audience would include fairly young adults (20-30) because even though they are little more experienced they are in a position to access their desires because they have governance over themselves and decisions.

My primary concern at this moment is that I won’t find any information on desire in general because everything I’ve come across is sexual and that’s not my focus, even though that seems to be Freud’s take on desire. Also, because of this I might look at addiction as a subgenre because it does overlap with desire but that might end up sending me in a different direction.