

Professor Ula

English 101

Fall 2021

#### Essay #4 Research Paper

Lord John Acton, a 19<sup>th</sup> Century British writer, philosopher, and politician, wrote:

“Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men, even when they exercise influence and not authority; still more when you superadd the tendency of the certainty of corruption by authority.”

<https://history.hanover.edu/courses/excerpts/165acton.html>

How is Lord Acton’s sentiment echoed in Naomi Alderman’s novel, *The Power*? What are the ways in which the novel demonstrates the corrosive and corruptive nature of power? How does the novel comment upon the relationship between gender and power? In other words, does gender matter when it comes to Lord Acton’s statement regarding absolute power corrupting absolutely? Why or why not?

Write a 10-page research paper on the primary source *The Power* in which you discuss the role gender plays in the relation to power in the novel & ways in which Naomi Alderman’s novel presents either supports or refutes the idea stated in the quotation above. Your research must incorporate and quote from *The Power* and SIX (6) secondary sources. You are free to research *The Power*, the current state of U.S. politics, social policy, connections between the author’s life and beliefs, and many other avenues of study as long as you find a way to tie in your research to the course novel in a relevant manner. Your essay must include the following:

#### I. Introduction:

- Hook
- Introduction of texts and authors
- Thesis statement that presents an argument regarding a) HOW Naomi Alderman’s novel *The Power* either **supports** or **refutes** Lord Acton’s quotation as stated above, and b) WHAT role gender plays in the power politics explored in the novel.

#### II. ALL Body Paragraphs should meet the following guidelines:

- Directly and logically further the main argument of the essay
- Topic Sentence that directly responds to and furthers the argument of the thesis statement
- Brief explanation of the topic of the paragraph
- Introduction of a quotation / evidence

- Quotation / evidence
- Explanation of quotation / evidence
- Brief statement that ties body paragraphs back to the main idea of the thesis statement
- Transitional phrase that introduces the topic of the following paragraph

### III. Analysis of Primary Source:

- Topic Sentence that directly responds to the thesis statement of the essay
- Detailed analysis of the major thematic and structural elements of *The Power*
- Evidence / quotations from the novels that DIRECTLY address the main argument of your research paper
- Transitional phrase that introduces the topic of the following paragraph

### IV. Incorporation and Analysis of Secondary Sources:

- Directly quote from six (6) separate secondary sources that help to support the argument you are making in your research paper
- Secondary sources must be connected to the primary topic of your essay. For example, you can quote from a sources that discusses a current social or political event as long as you find a way to make a RELEVANT connection to a theme / idea in *The Power*

### V. Conclusion:

- Briefly summarize the main ideas you have discussed in the essay
- Revisit the thesis statement
- Provide a personal anecdote or connection to the texts; some sort of insight you have gained based upon your research and your experience with supporting the argument you are making in this essay

\*NOTE: At this stage in your writing career, you have moved well beyond the 5-paragraph essay model. Ideally, you will have multiple paragraphs analyzing the novel itself and at least 6 paragraphs in which you discuss each of your secondary sources. Your essay needs to successfully PROVE The CLAIM you are making in your thesis statement. Remember to re-visit the central idea of your thesis statement in each body paragraph.