ENG105
Hansberry’s A Raisin in the Sun

“I was born on the southside of Chicago. I was born black and female. I was born in a depression after one world war, and came into my adolescence during another.”

Lorraine Hansberry

Directions: Choose one question from the Analysis questions and one from the Response questions. Please label your sections and the question you are responding to. For example: Analysis #2, Response #3.

Analysis: Please choose one of the following to focus and develop your analysis. Consider about 3 well-developed paragraphs as an adequate development of your analysis.

1. The conflict in Raisin has everything to do with dreams. What are the dreams? Whose dreams are they? How much does each character’s dream have to do with the American Dream? Considering the Dream, is there a happy ending to this play?
2. This play may be considered “well-made” in that it follows the classic plot structure we have studied all term. Identify and analyze the climax, the moment of truth. In your analysis, consider the following questions: What were the elements in conflict? Who triumphed over whom? What truth is realized?
3. Hansberry weaves many allusions into her drama. Find out what an allusion is. Then brainstorm a list of the many allusions in this play. Finally, explore how these allusions add meaning, texture, richness to the play.

Response: Please choose one of the following to focus and develop your response/connection. Consider about 3 well-developed paragraphs as an adequate development of your response.

1. Family is an important issue in this play. Did you connect with this theme in the play? Consider and write about this strength of family that Hasberry’s drama realizes.
2. Consider Walter Lee Younger’s moment of truth. Have you ever been faced with a decision similar in that it calls upon you to think about who you are and where you’ve come from in order to choose wisely?
3. What happens to a dream deferred? Consider your own dreams, and respond to Hughes question.