Historians believe *The Wizard of Oz* was written as an allegory for American Populism in the 1890s. While author L. Frank Baum claims it was written “solely to pleasure the children of today,” many believe that is not the case. This paper will be written to support the theory that *The Wizard of Oz* is an allegory for American politics in the 1890s, particularly focusing on Populism (The People's Party). Each character of the story, as well as various other aspects, are said to be symbols of the time-period.

**Your job is to tell me why each character or aspect is similar to a part of politics in this time period.**

For this paper, you will need to provide me with three specific reasons, one per body paragraph, as to why *The Wizard of Oz* could be considered an allegory for American politics in the 1890s. You will need to include specific characters and scenes from the movie (we will view it in class). You will need to include citations to support your claim from articles on the Populist Movement, which will be on my website.

- 5 paragraph essay
- A minimum of least two full pages.
- Paragraphs should contain at least 8 sentences.
- A minimum of 3 quotes need to be included.
- DO NOT copy your paper from scholarship that already exists on this subject. I want to hear what you have to say!
Paragraph 1

• Introduce Populism as well as *The Wizard of Oz.*
  o Use the information I have given you in class!
• Include a thesis statement.

Paragraph 2

• Reason #1
• Substantial information and evidence to support your reason
  o From the film and articles
• Quote (from Populist Movement articles I provide)

Paragraph 3

• Reason #2
• Substantial information and evidence to support your second reason
  o From the film and articles
• Quote (from Populist Movement articles I provide)

Paragraph 4

• Reason #3
• Substantial information and evidence to support your third reason
  o From the film and articles
• Quote (from Populist Movement articles I provide)

Paragraph 5

• Restate your thesis and summarize your paper in a sentence or two. You should not just copy and paste the thesis and topic sentences into the conclusion.
• Concluding thoughts – explain why this is important/interesting

Notes from the movie will be graded for accountability! I want to see that you made a conscious effort to enjoy the movie and think about this writing prompt.

Also include:

• A title
• A heading
• Double-Spaced
• 12-point font
• 1-inch margins
• Times New Roman
• MLA in-text citations
• MLA Works Cited page