Theme Based on the Works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

You have read five stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle featuring Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. In each, you have learned how Holmes uses deductive reasoning, inference, and a wide variety of tools, strategies, and resources to solve mysteries. You may also apply many of these rhetorical devices to help you achieve academic success.

For this assignment, you must think of three things that Holmes does that you can bring into your academic practice. For example, it can be to improve your reasoning skills, to keep a portfolio of research (either on the computer or through books and journals), or to develop better questioning strategies. Whatever you choose, you must explain the technique, and then explain how you can use it yourself. As you work on this paper, you must:

- Complete a pre-writing activity modeled after an activity we have covered in class.
- Create a formal outline.
- Write five paragraphs for your essay.
- Include an introduction paragraph (at least 5 sentences) as the first paragraph and end the introduction with a one-sentence thesis statement.
- Write three body paragraphs (6-9 sentences in length) that begin with a topic sentence and provide supporting details (major and minor).
- Include a concluding paragraph (at least 5 sentences long) that restates the thesis and wraps up your main ideas (see lecture on conclusions).

In addition, your essay must demonstrate that you have learned the skills we have been practicing in the course:

- Sentence variety
- Correct use of vocabulary
- Summarization/restatement of ideas
- Correct use of grammar and spelling

After you have completed your paper, check your work by using the Saylor Foundation’s “Guide to Responding to the Theme Assignment.” Read the information at the top of the guide, and then make an honest assessment of your work for each category listed.