

Antipastoral Introduction

Pastoral is a genre of many things, but one that is constantly shown again and again is its rosy idealization of the past. Counterbalancing this is the anti-pastoral, which tries to ground the lofty ideals of the pastoral in the cold and hard facts of reality. In *Pastoral*, Gifford uses the poem 'Dover Beach' by Matthew Arnold (1851) as a representative example of the anti-pastoral. In his analysis, he shows how the poem claims

That the natural world can no longer be constructed as 'a land of dreams', but is in fact a bleak battle for survival without divine purpose [...] which places Matthew Arnold in a tradition of anti-pastoral poets

While many claim that the anti-pastoral begins with Stephen Duck and his famous poem "The Thresher's Labour" in 1736, its themes have been present in some of pastoral's earlier wor



Annotations ³ Page Notes ¹

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Tue Apr 04 2017

Literary Arcadias

genre of many things

This is a very vague phrase. Can you state what these "things" are so you can make a stronger break from them? Do these "things" create a composite perception of ideality? Or is idealization one of these "things"?

Also, a lot of your content was a bit thin because of the above issues. More explication of secondary sources and more set-up of your points is necessary. Often, you are too quick to jump to the "punchline" or point without properly setting up your ideas. Often, the result is many unsupported claims.



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of the anti-pastoral.

"stating..." Here, you have not shown how Gifford "uses" this poem. Even before you include the passage, state how Gifford talks about the poem in relation to pastoral. Even once you include the passage you don't explain what it means. Here, you have used this passage as evidence-by-proxy simply dropping it in without explicating it for the purpose of argument. Pick out the terms/lines of the passage that speak to the idea of anti-pastoral ("bleak battle for survival" or "without divine purposes" are a couple) and explain why this is so (and why it matters). I think you can cut the last line of the quote.

I like the look of the wrapped quote. To make the suggested content changes you can still keep the design the same.

