

## Literary Analysis Essay

In your analytical essay you will develop a thesis [main idea/angle] and argue why this idea is reasonable and ought to be accepted by your readers. Remember that behind any thesis statement is a question. Your answer to that question will be your thesis. As you marshal your argument, you will need to use and discuss evidence from the texts. You are to use at least five quotes from the text or texts explored. You will need to provide parenthetical documentation of any quotes or paraphrases and a works-cited page; both the parenthetical documentation and works-cited page must follow the MLA format.

### **Choose one of the following topics for your essay:**

1. Compare or contrast two characters from different works that we have studied this semester.
2. Compare or contrast the use of setting in two works that we have discussed this semester.
3. Compare or contrast the theme of two different works and the way the authors convey that theme.
4. Discuss the transition of a character. How and why does that character change? What conflicts and experiences lead to that character's evolution?
5. Compare or contrast your life experience to a character we have studied this semester.
6. Identify a question that fascinates you about one of the works we have studied. Then write an essay in which your thesis is an attempt to answer that question.

### **Some Rules to Follow:**

- When you write about literature, you write in the present tense.
- Write in third person.
- The author and title of the works must be mentioned in the introduction.
- Your introduction should have an effective lead sentence [the pop!] and a clear and focused thesis statement.
- The body paragraphs must begin with a topic sentence that both hooks back to the thesis and directs the reader to where you are going with your argument.
- Each paragraph should support the topic sentence with evidence from the primary and/or secondary sources
- Use transitional words and phrases to help the reader move from paragraph to paragraph of the essay.
- Introduce quotes by giving context, and then comment about the quote's importance for your analysis.
- In your conclusion, summarize your argument then Snap it off with a provocative line that makes the reader think about the significance of your argument.