

Critical Analysis Essay Assignment	
Purpose	<p>Critical Analysis Essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will learn and practice principles of literary interpretation. • Students will present their interpretations in a clear, precise, well-written article.
Guidelines	<p>Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 600-750 words • Academic audience
Critical Process	<p>Steps to an Effective Critical Analysis</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enter the literary conversation 2. Develop an issue question and define individual stance 3. Acquire meaningful, purposeful evidence 4. Organize argument into a clear, coherent conversation 5. Present discussion professionally
Conversation	<p>Enter the Literary Conversation</p> <p>Writers must become part of a discourse community by understanding and participating in discussion surrounding their chosen text. Possible entry points include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical lenses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Formalism/New Criticism ○ Feminist or Gender Criticism ○ Psychological Criticism ○ Marxist Criticism ○ New Historic Criticism ○ Reader-Response Criticism • Literary elements
Literary Analysis Steps	<p>Literary Analysis Steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Choose a piece of literature offered in this course. 2. Choose a literary lens or approach. Clearly identify the theory you use as your critical lens early in your paper (in your heading, the title, or the first paragraph). 3. Do a T-Analysis. Your focused answer to the question becomes the thesis for your paper. You may use a T-Analysis you have already completed for this class. 4. Craft your essay, citing at least two academic sources. Paraphrase your sources rather than quote extensively. Include a Works Cited page the work you analyze.

Evidence

Acquire Meaningful, Purposeful Evidence

Writers must support their claims through integrated, relevant, thoroughly explored textual and scholarly evidence. Writers understand the differences between textual and scholarly evidence.

- **Textual Evidence.** Textual evidence includes materials from the literary work under discussion.
 - Textual evidence includes meaningful references to the work that contributes to and facilitates the writers' arguments or thesis.
 - These references are most often paraphrases or short direct quotations.
 - Textual evidence is NOT a synopsis of the work.
 - Textual evidence is NOT simply stringing pasted quotations into the document.
- **Scholarly Evidence.** Scholarly evidence includes reputable, published materials that meaningfully contribute to the discussion of the literary work.
 - Scholarly evidence merely supplements your argument and the textual evidence.
 - Scholarly evidence requires your personal explanation of its relevance and contribution to your argument. Remember that readers want to know what you think.
- **Integrating Evidence.** Both types of evidence should seamlessly flow into your article. Integrate your sources by adhering to the following:
 - Introduce source
 - Incorporate the paraphrase or short quotation (use quotation marks around direct quotation)
 - Explain significance of citation
 - Use accurate 2009 MLA documentation

Organization

Organize Arguments

Writers should organize their ideas to advance purposefully their stances. To accomplish this, observe the following:

- **Title**
- **Introduction**
 - Use direct opener—get to the point immediately.
 - Avoid yes/no questions.
 - Lead into thesis by providing short, relevant background and/or rhetorical context.
 - State a direct or indirect thesis statement.
- **Body**
 - Make a claim that ties into your thesis (topic sentence).
 - Support claim with reasons and integrated evidence.

Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conclusion• Documentation<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ In-text○ End-text
Presentation	<p>A Good Idea Deserves a Good Presentation</p> <p>Writers respect their readers enough to eliminate any errors, ambiguities, or inconsistencies in their writing. Writers also attempt to appeal to their readers intellectually, personally, and visually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use personal, active voice.• Employ clear, simple, direct prose.• Demonstrate accurate mechanical control.• Adhere to effective, professional format.• Edit and proofread again, again, and again.• Make document visually appealing.
Resources	<p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical Analysis Student Essay