

Eighth Grade Literary Analysis Essay

The literary analysis essay should be typed (double spaced, 12 font), 2 pages in length, and have little to no grammatical, spelling, and punctuation errors. Follow the MLA format.

Paragraph 1 Summary:

Name the book and author. Give a brief detailed summary of the general story line. What were the major events? If you were telling a friend about the entire story in two minutes, what would you tell them?

Paragraph 2 Setting Analysis:

Where did the story take place? Give a detailed description of the location along with explaining time period with mood and tone. How significant is the choice of setting to this particular story? Would the story be different if it was set somewhere else?

Paragraph 3 Character Analysis:

Pick only ONE character. Focus on just that character and through their actions in the story examine and explain 2-3 of their character traits. Support your ideas with examples from the story.

Paragraph 4 Character Comparison:

Pick two characters and compare and contrast them. How are they alike and how are they different?

Paragraph 5 Plot Analysis:

Explain one or two events that created a major change in the story or a character. This would be one of those events that is surprising or is pivotal to the story developing and ending the way it does.

Paragraph 6 Personal Comparison:

Compare and contrast yourself to one of the characters. How are you alike and/or different? Would you handle yourself the same way the character did in the story?

Paragraph 7 Theme:

What lesson did you or the main character learn from the story? Explain your thoughts and support them with examples from the story.

Paragraph 8 Closing:

Find a quote from the book that you feel helps you to summarize the book. Copy the quote and cite it. It could be related to a character or a theme. Explain what the quote means. Explain the significance of the quote and why you chose it. (You could even choose a quote that the author uses to introduce the book).