

Literary Analysis Essay

8th Grade ELA Standard

ELAGSE8RL2: Determine a theme and/or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.

ELAGSE8W2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

Literary Analysis Outline

Introductory Paragraph

- I. Introductory Paragraph – Introduce the literature and identify purpose
 - a. Hook – grab the reader’s attention
 - b. Provide a brief summary of the plot (1-2 sentences).
 - c. Identify the author and title of the work of literature.
 - d. Thesis - What’s the essay’s purpose? What will it prove?
 - i. Identify the literary element to be analyzed
 - ii. Identify the theme

Activity #1: Construct a thesis for your essay

Sample Thesis: In Ray Bradbury’s Fahrenheit 451, the author uses **characterization** to develop the theme that **giving in to peer-pressure** leads to regrets.

Literary Analysis Outline

Body Paragraph(s)

- I. Body Paragraph (Repeat as necessary)– Analysis of Example(s)
 - a. Topic sentence w/transition - identify the literary element and the example to be analyzed.
 - b. Evidence and Explanation - Provide textual evidence, explain how the evidence relates to the thesis, and why the evidence is important. (Hint: Use SAY, MEAN, MATTER handout)
 - c. Provide a conclusion or summary that leads to your next example

Activity #2: List four transitions you could use in your essay

Activity #3: Write a topic sentence for your first body paragraph.

Literary Analysis Outline

Conclusion

I. Conclusion

- a. Restate your thesis
- b. Summarize the importance of the literary element to your argument.
- c. End with a final sentence that makes your reader think of your argument in a new way.
 - i. Example: Bradbury's novel teaches us it is ok to go against the crowd when the crowd is wrong.

Activity #4: List three things to be included in your essay's conclusion.

Literary Analysis Outline

I. Introductory Paragraph – Introduce the literature and identify purpose

- a. Hook – grab the reader’s attention
- b. Provide a brief summary of the plot (1-2 sentences)
- c. Identify the author and title of the work of literature.
- d. Thesis - What’s the essay’s purpose? What will it prove?
 - i. Identify the literary element to be analyzed
 - ii. Identify the theme
 1. Example: In Ray Bradbury’s Fahrenheit 451, the author uses characterization to develop the theme that giving in to peer-pressure leads to regrets.

II. Body Paragraph (Repeat as necessary)– Analysis of Example

- a. Topic sentence w/transition - identify the literary element and the example to be analyzed.
- b. Evidence and Explanation - Provide textual evidence, explain how the evidence relates to the thesis, and why the evidence is important. (Hint: Use SAY, MEAN, MATTER handout)
- c. Provide a conclusion or summary that leads to your next example

III. Conclusion

- a. Restate your thesis
- b. Summarize the importance of the literary element to your argument.
- c. End with a final sentence that makes your reader think of your argument.
 - i. Example: Bradbury’s novel teaches us that it is ok to go against the crowd when the crowd is wrong.