

**Details: Your essay will...**

- ☐ **Select one text** analyzed in class to write your essay, using **one lens**.
- ☐ Be **4 to 6** pages in length and must follow the 5 paragraph format that we have reviewed this unit
- ☐ Rely on quoted material from the text with a **minimum of 2 citations** per paragraph.
- ☐ **Elaborate** on material covered in class, but do not convert class notes into an essay!
- ☐ You will have **three classes** to work on your essay; your essay will be submitted during period 3.
  - Period One: Completing the outline;
  - Period Two: Typing out your essay (**Please bring laptop**);
  - Period Three: Finishing your Essay, Proofreading & Editing
- ☐ Preparation, Pre-Writing, Brainstorming, and Critical Thinking may be completed outside of class.
- ☐ At the end of the third class, you will **email the final copy** and hand in the rubric, and all your process work
  - close reading with notes
  - focus questions and thesis notes
  - outline

**STEPS TO WRITING THE ESSAY**

**Step 1: Pre-Writing (Close Reading)**

- ☐ Re-read the text and identify the themes, conflict, characterization, and setting of your text to ensure that you understand the story.
- ☐ Do a close reading of your selected text and highlight all details that relate to all 4 of the literary lenses (formalism, gender, psychoanalytical and Marxist). Perhaps label all information with an F, G, P or M, or use different colored highlighters to classify textual evidence.
- ☐ In the margins define unknown words, summarize key ideas, ask questions, make inferences and draw conclusions about the meaning of actions, events, and literary devices.
- ☐ Choose one literary lens to apply to your analysis of the text. (Select the one with the most textual evidence)

**Step 2: Focus Questions (Creating a Thesis)**

- ☐ Depending on the literary lens you have selected, ask yourself the following questions and brainstorm your answer by referring to the evidence you found during your close reading (use the template below to answer):
  - **Formalism:** How does the **form** (how it is written) of the text work to reinforce the **theme** (why it was written)?
    - Look at literary devices such as similes, imagery, metaphors and personification.
    - Look at the setting and atmosphere
    - Look at the repetition; what is being emphasized?
  - **Gender:** Do the portrayals of gender in the text **reinforce** or **challenge** traditional gender stereotypes?
    - Look at how the characters behave. What do they think, say or do? What do they look like?
    - Look at how the characters speak to and about one another.
  - **Psychoanalysis:** How does the character use **defense mechanisms** to cope with challenges?  
**OR** Are the character's actions primarily motivated by the **id, ego** or **superego**?
    - Look at the inner thoughts of the character.
    - Look at the interactions between characters; are their underlying insecurities causing problems?
  - **Psychoanalysis:** How does the text **criticize** or **validate** issues about **race, class** and **power**?  
**OR** Does the text **reinforce** or **challenge** hierarchical class structures?
    - Look at characters/groups who have power; do they use it responsibly or for selfish gains?
    - Look at characters/groups who do not have power? Are they helpless or not?

**Step 3: A Working Thesis**

- ☐ Use the answer to your focus question to help write out a working thesis statement.
- ☐ Organize your evidence into 3 categories – one for each paragraph
- ☐ Remember it should contain: the title and author's name, the answer to your focus question, a brief explanation of your opinion (how & why), and your 3 arguments to support your opinion.

**Step 4: Creating your outline**

- ☐ Use the outline template to plan your introduction and conclusion, and organize your arguments and evidence. Be sure to select at least 2 direct quotations from the text to support your argument in each paragraph.
- ☐ Explain and elaborate on how your evidence works to prove your thesis.

**Step 5: Writing your essay**

- ☐ Using a word processor, (ie: Microsoft Word), begin to type out your essay using your outline as a guide.
- ☐ Please use MLA format (review notes "MLA Format Quick Reference Sheet")
  - Times New Roman font, Font Size 12, Double-spaced
  - Last name and page # on the top right of each page
  - Your Name, Lecturers Name, Course Title and Date on the left
  - Essay title in the center (do not bold, underline or increase font size)
  - Use proper in-text citations after all direct quotations. Ex: (Last Name Page #) → (Chopin 1)
  - Last page should be a Works Cited page
- ☐ Self-edit your essay checking for grammar, spelling, punctuation etc...

Selected Focus Question(s):

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Organizing your Close Reading Notes**

Draw a Chart to organize your textual evidence

(Reinforces/Challenges, Criticizes/Validates, Id/Ego/Superego)

**Organize your evidence into 3 categories**

<b>EVIDENCE CHART</b>	Argument 1:	Argument 2:	Argument 3:
Direct Quotation #1			
Connection to Thesis			
Direct Quotation # 2			
Connection to Thesis			

**Thesis Statement:**

Working Thesis

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\_\_\_\_\_

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Refine &amp; Edit #1 (after meeting with teacher)

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**INTRODUCTION**

General Introductory Statement:

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Transition to Novel/Argument/Issue:

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Thesis Statement - Main Argument:

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Thesis Statement - 3 Sub Arguments:

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**BODY - PARAGRAPH ONE**

Topic 1 - Topic Sentence:

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STATE:

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I - Evidence#1:

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Embedded Citation: ( )

ELABORATE:

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STATE:

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I - Evidence#2:

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Embedded Citation: ( )

ELABORATE:

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STATE:

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I - Evidence#3:

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Embedded Citation: ( )

ELABORATE:

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Transition to paragraph two:

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## BODY - PARAGRAPH TWO

Topic 2 - Topic Sentence:

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STATE:

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I - Evidence#1:

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Embedded Citation: ( )

ELABORATE:

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STATE:

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I - Evidence#2:

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Embedded Citation: ( )

ELABORATE:

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STATE:

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I - Evidence#3:

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Embedded Citation: ( )

ELABORATE:

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Transition to paragraph three:

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### BODY - PARAGRAPH THREE

Topic 3 - Topic Sentence:

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STATE:

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I - Evidence#1:

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Embedded Citation: ( )

ELABORATE:

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STATE:

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I - Evidence#2:

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Embedded Citation: ( )

ELABORATE:

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STATE:

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I - Evidence#3:

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Embedded Citation: ( )

ELABORATE:

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Transition to the conclusion:

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### CONCLUSION

Conclude all 3 Arguments:

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Conclude Thesis:

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Clincher

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