

Why did Elizabeth go with reverend Hale so easily?

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54 lost all faith with him

Plant question: think about why those 2 are put together, what in common and how do they inform each other and what does it add to story, John Proctor core voice against witchcraft and committed adulter

1. The name of the text you are analyzing
2. A preliminary thesis, or what you are thinking about arguing
3. What you are most confident or most excited about in relation to this assignment
4. What you are most worried about or most concerned with in relation to this assignment

Statements in a bulleted or numbered list is fine.

Is This Kansas by Eula Biss

1. The name of the text you are analyzing:

- "Is This Kansas?" by Eula Biss

2. A preliminary thesis, or what you are thinking about arguing:

- In "Is This Kansas?" by Eula Biss, she describes how universities create a false sense of safety. She highlights how universities often ignore major issues and sweep them under the rug to maintain a reputation

3. What you are most confident or most excited about in relation to this assignment:

- I'm confident that I can point out the danger and inequalities students have to face.

4. What you are most worried about or most concerned with in relation to this assignment:

- I'm concerned about how to connect her personal anecdotes to broader themes and having enough material to write 4-5 pages.

The name of the text you are analyzing:

- *Pressure Machine* by The Killers

2. A preliminary thesis, or what you are thinking about arguing:

- In the album "Pressure Machine" by The Killers, the difficulties of living in a small-town are shown. The economic struggle, personal dreams, and feeling trapped, creates a mix of hope and sadness.

3. What you are most confident or most excited about in relation to this assignment:

- I'm excited to explore the storytelling in the lyrics and how the album uses vivid, often painful, imagery to depict a sense of entrapment. The blend of narrative elements with raw emotion offers a rich ground for close reading and analysis.

4. What you are most worried about or most concerned with in relation to this assignment:

- I'm concerned that interpreting music lyrics may be more subjective than working with a straightforward text, which could make it harder to build an essay

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For this assignment, you will write an essay of 4-5 pages (Double Spaced, with 12 pt font) on one of the selected texts on our syllabus this semester. Likely, you'll want to write about one of the texts we've already read, but you can choose any text from the syllabus.

This essay will offer you the opportunity to showcase the close reading skills you've been working to develop throughout the semester, in order to produce a literary analysis of the text, or texts, you have chosen. **This essay is essentially an expansion of the type of work you've already been doing** in your quizzes and our class discussions—just carried out over a longer and more formal space. In fact, a quiz response or piece of a class discussion could provide the foundation for this project. **Your essay may be a sustained close reading of the text, an analysis of the text's form (its poetics, diction, narrative structure, or usage of literary devices), or a thorough examination of the text's themes.** No matter which format you choose, you must support your interpretation with textual evidence. Remember that the text is always the final judge of our interpretive work.

This essay is NOT a summary of the text! Write for an audience which includes myself and your classmates. Assume that all of us have read the text(s) you are writing about, and therefore you don't need to fully describe the plot of the text to us. Only include the absolute minimum that your readers need to understand the interpretive work that you are performing in the essay. This essay is also not an evaluation of the text, an editorial, or any sort of opinion piece. You should avoid using sentence constructions which start with, "I think" or "I believe", and instead focus on analyzing what the text is doing and what you can do with the text.

Here's a detailed outline for a 4-5 page essay on *Is This Kansas* by Eula Biss:

1. Introduction (½ page)

- **Hook:** Start with a statement about how privilege and safety can create a false sense of security in a world with broader dangers.
- **Context:** Introduce Eula Biss's *Is This Kansas*, mentioning its focus on the disparity between privileged university students and those affected by real-world issues, particularly in the context of Hurricane Katrina.
- **Thesis Statement:** Present your argument. For example: "In *Is This Kansas*, Eula Biss critiques the disconnect between privilege and real-world dangers, using her experiences and observations to highlight the gap between the safety perceived by students and the harsh realities faced by others."

2. Close Reading of Key Passages (1½ pages)

- **Passage 1 (Example: Biss's reflections on safety at the university):**
 - Discuss how Biss describes the bubble of safety perceived by students. Analyze specific lines that illustrate this sense of security.
 - **Expand:** Explain how this bubble contrasts with the realities faced by people outside the university.
 - **Passage 2 (Example: Biss's observations on the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina):**
 - Analyze how Biss contrasts the experiences of students with those affected by the hurricane. Focus on specific descriptions and how they reveal the disparity in experiences.
 - **Expand:** Relate this to the broader theme of privilege versus reality.
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3. Exploration of Themes (1 page)

- **Theme 1 – Privilege vs. Reality:**
 - Discuss how Biss highlights the gap between the perceived safety of university life and the actual dangers faced by others. Use examples from the text to show how this theme is developed.
 - **Expand:** Explain the significance of this theme in understanding societal divisions and personal awareness.
 - **Theme 2 – The Illusion of Safety:**
 - Explore how the idea of safety is portrayed as an illusion for students. Use specific passages to discuss how Biss reveals the fragility of this sense of security.
 - **Expand:** Connect this to broader societal issues or personal reflections.
 - **Theme 3 – Empathy and Awareness:**
 - Discuss how Biss calls for greater empathy and awareness of the realities faced by others. Use examples from the text to show how this theme is conveyed.
 - **Expand:** Explain why this call for empathy is important in bridging the gap between different social realities.
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4. Analysis of Form and Style (1 page)

- **Narrative Structure:**
 - Analyze how Biss's narrative structure (blending personal experience with observation) contributes to the overall argument. Discuss how this structure enhances the themes.

- **Expand:** Consider how the structure affects the reader's understanding of privilege and safety.
 - **Use of Imagery and Tone:**
 - Discuss how Biss uses imagery and tone to convey the contrast between the university environment and the real-world dangers. Provide examples from the text.
 - **Expand:** Explain how these literary elements support the themes of the essay.
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5. Conclusion (½ page)

- **Restate the Thesis:** Reiterate how *Is This Kansas* critiques the disconnect between privilege and reality.
- **Reflection:** Discuss the relevance of Biss's observations today. Why is it important to understand the gap between perceived safety and actual dangers?
- **Closing Thought:** End with a statement about the value of recognizing and addressing these disparities in our own lives and society.

Bartleby, The Iowa one, mental health one, the album one,
