

When you write about a work of literature, your goal is to *forward your own interpretation* of some aspect of that work—you make an argument (your interpretation) that explains how the text works and why / how that matters. Since your essay is only a few pages, there is simply no way you can cover every thought you have about one piece of literature, and you don't want to. Your essay should develop one focus about the work and that's it.

For instance, in a short essay, I can't tell you everything I think about *The Hunger Games*—that would take hundreds of pages. I can't even tell you everything I think about Katniss or Peeta or hunger or bread or rebellion. However, I can write about how Katniss's ideas about Peeta change over time and why/how that matters. I can explain why/how hunger is both something that marks Katniss as poor and a reason she's as successful as she is. To do so, I would have to establish what exactly my position is and limit the parameters of my subject. Then, I would develop a thesis statement and find examples from the book—textual evidence—to support it. In an essay such as this, the writer is to explain how and why they think / understand the one aspect of the book they've decided to focus on; they put forward their own interpretation for the reader.

Prompt

Write a well-developed essay in which you interpret some specific aspect (such as symbol, theme, character, etc.) or problem (hunger, kindness, Maslow's hierarchy, etc.) in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*. For this prompt you pick a topic, develop a thesis statement, offer examples from the book to support your line of reasoning, and organize this reasoned interpretation in a form that other readers of *The Hunger Games* can clearly understand. Use standard essay format with clearly controlled paragraphs and well-integrated excerpts from *The Hunger Games*. You want to address the why / how it matters question. Why does this topic you've chosen to write about matter? How does it affect the **character development / conflict / climax of the novel?** The why / how it matters question is almost always answered by the GMC.

Requirements

- Choose an appropriate topic, one you are interested in and can manage in 3-4 pages. There is a list of topic ideas on the website should you need help determining your topic.
- Choose a topic wherein you'll demonstrate to the reader that you read the entire book.

- Develop a clear thesis statement, and provide textual support for it in clearly organized and controlled paragraphs.
- Revise multiple times and peer workshop the essay.
- Cite examples and quote from the book to support interpretations; this is not a research essay so you don't need sources in addition to *The Hunger Games*.
- Do not quote from web sites the summarize or analyze the book for you—you summarize and analyze. That's the work of writing a literary analysis.
- Choose the smallest possible excerpts/quotes to use in your essays. Don't quote huge chunks of text. Integrate well those you do choose.
- Your essay should be source-dense, meaning you want as many specific examples from the text as possible, throughout the essay.
- All of the words in this essay should be the writer's own, or should be short, quoted passages from *The Hunger Games*. Do not quote long passages of text. Integrate all sources per MLA guidelines. Do use in-text citations.
- If you only quote *The Hunger Games* text, you do not need a works cited. You should put page numbers in parenthesis (9), or, if you're using a digital copy of the book, put the chapter number in parenthesis (ch 15).
- The examples in your essay should cover the entirety of the text, meaning, part of your purpose is to show your instructor you read and understood the book as a whole. If your analysis stops at chapter 4, I will assume you're reading did to.
- Use [the editing guide](#) to peer workshop, revise, and edit this essay.