

The Great Gatsby

Literary Analysis Essay

Assignment Summary:	F. Scott Fitzgerald's <i>The Great Gatsby</i> is a widely studied novel. Not only does this novel embody struggles of the everyman, but he presents compelling characters and themes that still ring true today. <i>Gatsby</i> has been studied for its commentary on the 1920's as a decade, economics, and the conflict between classes as well as the failure of the American dream. See topics below.
Writer's Purpose:	To inform the reader of your interpretation and findings on the novel.
Writer's Role:	Yourself – an informed reader!
Audience:	Your audience is comprised of teachers, students, and anyone who has read <i>The Great Gatsby</i> . Expect that your audience has a working knowledge of the novel and do not write a summary. Reference the novel to prove what you are saying. Quotations=evidence.
Form:	<p>Literary Analysis: The purpose of a literary analysis essay is to carefully examine and sometimes evaluate a work of literature or an aspect of a work of literature. As with any analysis, this requires you to break the subject down into its component parts. Examining the different elements of a piece of literature is not an end in itself, but rather a process to help you better appreciate and understand the work of literature as a whole.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 ½- 3 pages (3 is a MAXIMUM) • size 12, Times New Roman, double-spaced, standard margins (1-inch) • do not use 1st person • smoothly integrate <u>direct quotations</u> from the novel
Focus Correction Areas	<p>Content: Thesis (clear, arguable thesis) (5pts)</p> <p>Content: Quotes Effectively support thesis and are embedded smoothly (5 times) (40 pts) (Points are based on appropriate selection, placement, and embedding.)</p> <p>Content: Commentary: Your analysis of text adds to thesis development (40 points)</p> <p>Organization: Paragraph structure: All paragraphs have a topic sentence that directly relates to the thesis and sequencing of details is purposeful and effective. (10 points)</p> <p>Conventions: Proper internal and end punctuation, including MLA formatting (5 pts)</p>
Procedure:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Select your topic. 2. Brainstorm possible sections of the novel that will help you narrow and support a thesis. 3. Find primary references (5 or more quotations) to support your thesis. Remember, you must <i>prove</i> everything you say by giving evidence. 5. Write an outline with a thesis statement to plan your essay. 6. Compose the introduction and one body paragraph. 7. Write your essay. 8. Proofread 9. Proofread 10. Submit to turnitin.com

Theme Analysis: Select one focus

identify, discuss, and support from the text ONE major theme

1. Pursuit of the American Dream:

Consider the way that Fitzgerald develops message throughout the novel on the American dream or the corruption of it. (You cannot merely discuss the ending!)

2. The separation of social classes:

What is Fitzgerald's message about class? You might consider what happens when characters attempt to move from one social sphere to another and its significance.

3. Illusion:

How do illusions contribute or prohibit characters' ability to thrive in their societies and relationships?

4. Carelessness:

Consider Fitzgerald's message regarding careless and caring individuals. (You may select only one side to analyze.) Is this novel essentially about carelessness? Support and defend a stance.

5. Nick as narrator:

Some say that Nick is the *only* dynamic character in the novel. Discuss how Nick changes and what his evolution shows.

*You can propose another topic as long as you talk to me about it by _____.

Symbolism:

In your discussion of a theme, you may also include related references to:

- the green light
- the eyes of T.J. Eckleburg
- weather
- use of colors
- the impact of setting

Gatsby Essay (ACA A)

Writing Steps

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	20 Essay introduced	21 Thesis attempt #1	22	23 Revised thesis & outline w/ quotations	24	25
26	27 Intro & 1 body paragraph to Turnitin.com	28	29	30 Suggested "completion" of essay	31	1
2	3 Essay due to Turnitin	4	5	6	7	8

DUE: _____ : Preliminary Thesis: first draft- so topic and stance needs to be narrowed!

**DUE: _____ : Outline with at least 3 primary source quotations
(aka- DQ direct quotations)**

*due to Turnitin.com by 2:29 PM (at end of school day)

* *Outlines will be graded in the order they are received*

* Keep in mind, that you may need to revise your paragraphs and go back to the novel even after outlining to develop a cohesive argument. *

- You can find this outline on our class webpage under Gatsby resources
- Type into it there, or create your own – you can format it in a way that works for you!
- Then, post to Turnitin.com

DUE: _____ : Intro & first body paragraph with embedded quotations

DUE: _____ : Final draft (3 pages max) to Turnitin.com by 7:30 AM

- *BEFORE submitting your final draft, please complete the following:*
 - o Examine the given checklists
 - o Double check your MLA format
 - o Underline the point of embedding for your quotations!

NB: Late essays will lose 10% per day, including weekends. Only doctor's notes or family emergencies can excuse students from losing late points.* Missing class because of sports or other school activities does not grant an extension for any portion of the essay. *

Literary Analysis Mini-Essay Checklist

General

- ☐ Essay is in 12, Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins
- ☐ Essay 2-3 pages (no papers OVER 3)
- ☐ Must include at least 5 direct quotations from the primary source
- ☐ Essay is submitted to Turnitin.com- no emailed essays will be accepted- but you may use this as a back-up method if necessary

First Page:

Heading (name, teacher name, course name, date) _____

Header (last name and page number) _____

Original Title (centered) _____

Thesis clearly stated at end and previews main points _____

- The thesis statement tells your reader what to expect: it is a restricted, precisely worded declarative sentence that states the purpose of your essay -- the point you are trying to make.
- *Without a carefully conceived thesis, an essay has no chance of success*

BODY PARAGRAPHS

Each body paragraph should have a topic sentence, appropriate primary and secondary references, and original commentary!

Include two-way topic sentences (point to thesis and to paragraph) _____

Thesis supported by way of reference to primary source(s) _____

The point of embedding is underlined for the 5 quotations I would like evaluated _____

All quotations have in-text citations _____