



English 9 | Literary Analysis Assignment Description

In the Time of the Butterflies



Description of Assignment: A literary analysis essay is an exploration of a certain meaning within a piece of literature. **The goal of this literary analysis essay is to convince the audience that your view on a chosen theme is valid and defensible.** For this essay, you will **choose one of the themes below** and show your data and analysis surrounding your chosen theme. Each topic is directly related to our reading group themes from *In the Time of the Butterflies*:

Theme & Prompt Options	Example argument
<u>Feminism</u> <i>How is feminism shown through the words and actions of the main characters?</i>	The women in Alvarez' novel display feminist values in a time of unjust policies toward women.
<u>Corruption & Control</u> <i>How does the corruption within Trujillo's government affect the characters within the novel?</i>	Trujillo and his followers used certain methods within the novel to maintain control over the people.
<u>Storytelling & Time</u> <i>How did the changing storyline and method of telling affect the narrative?</i>	The changing storytelling technique in the novel forces readers to interact with and become a part of the story.
<u>Courage and Resistance</u> <i>How do one or more characters show courage within the novel?</i>	Minerva's courage within <i>Butterflies</i> teaches the reader that even small acts can break down large forces of corruption.

Position Paper Requirements: You will write a first draft of your position paper by hand, and then you will type your essay when your rough draft is complete. All students are required to handwrite a first draft and type a final draft.

Your literary analysis essay must:

- Clearly state your theme and argument
- Be persuasive and clearly written so your audience agrees with your point of view
- Support your argument with evidence from the novel to ensure the validity of your claims

Additionally, your final draft must:

- Be at least 2 1/2 pages in length, double-spaced
- Be in MLA format:
 - Double-spaced
 - Your name, the teacher's name, the course title and the date in the upper right hand corner
 - 12 point font
 - Have a title for your paper
 - Page #s and your last name in the upper right hand corner
 - Have 1 inch margins
- Cite at least 3 Quotes from the novel in detail with thorough, unique analysis



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LITERARY ANALYSIS OUTLINE

Part of Paper	What to include
Thesis and Introduction	<p>A. Introduce the theme B. Provide background on the theme to explain why it is important C. State your the thesis (your view of the theme’s meaning).</p> <p><i>Thesis statement frame:</i></p> <p>I believe _____ because _____, _____, and _____.</p>
Body Paragraph 1, Your Argument/ Point 1	<p>A. Topic Sentence: introduce point #1 for your reading B. Cite at least one piece of evidence (quote) to support point #1 C. Analyze why your quote is significant to be read the way you read it and connect back to your theme</p>
Body Paragraph 2, Your Argument/Point 2	<p>A. Topic Sentence: introduce point #2 for your reading B. Cite at least one piece of evidence (quote) to support point #2 C. Analyze why your quote is significant to be read the way you read it and connect back to your theme</p>
Body Paragraph 3, Your Argument/Point 3	<p>A. Topic Sentence: introduce point #3 for your reading B. Cite at least one piece of evidence (quote) to support point #3 C. Analyze why your quote is significant to be read the way you read it and connect back to your theme</p>
Conclusion	<p>A. Restate your thesis in different words B. State why your argument matters to you, to the reader and to the world (the “so what?”)</p>

HW: For my literary analysis essay I’ll be writing about _____ (write theme here), making the _____ (for or against) argument.