

Literary Analysis Essay

A literary analysis essay analyzes some aspect of a work of literature such as symbolism, character, setting or theme. This type of essay must include specific examples and quotations from the text to support the thesis.

Name _____ Date: _____ Grade: _____

Evaluated Trait	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Totals
<i>Ideas and Content</i> _____ <i>points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Thesis statement concise * Body clearly supports thesis * Ideas supported with explanations and specific examples * Quotations fit explanations * Insight and analysis present * Clear direct interpretation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Thesis needs strengthening and focus * Does not provide consistent support for ideas * Some details are vague * Insight, analysis present at times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Thesis is missing or does not fit essay * No textual support * Writing consists of plot summary only – no analysis 	
<i>Voice</i> _____ <i>points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Creative presentation of ideas * Unique sound to topic, idea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Pleasant to read but cautious tone * Typical topic idea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * No risks taken * Weak idea, no passion 	
<i>Organization</i> _____ <i>points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Original title * Intro. contains lead and clear thesis statement * Transitions used to link paragraphs and ideas within paragraphs * Clear topic sentence in each body paragraph * Conclusion links ideas back to intro. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Lead present in intro. but uninteresting * Not clear how details tie in * Transitions do not fully link ideas * Some topic sentences exist, clarity needed * New ideas in conclusion, conclusion is preachy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * No clear beginning, middle or end * No transitions * No topic sentences * Writing is scrambled, jumbled 	
<i>Word Choice</i> _____ <i>points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Formal voice is used * Varied word choice and specific language * Vocab exceeds grade level, used correctly * Active verbs, precise nouns, precise modifiers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Formal voice varies * Some vague words * Age appropriate vocab * Some wordiness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * No formal voice (first and second person throughout) * Misused, vague words * Limited, word choice 	
<i>Sentence Fluency</i> _____ <i>points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Sentence structure is varied * Flow is smooth and natural * Sentences are economized, concise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Some sentence variation in length and structure * Flow is smooth and natural at times * Sentences wordy and/or awkward at times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Simple sentence structure throughout * Fragments and run-ons throughout the paper * Wordiness impedes understanding 	
<i>Conventions</i> _____ <i>points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Grammatical errors do not impede meaning * Spelling is accurate * Proofreading errors are eliminated * Punctuation errors do not impede meaning * Quotes, citations formatted correctly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Grammar makes reader stumble * Spelling distracts reader * Proofreading distracts reader * Punctuation distracts reader * Some quotes, citations formatted correctly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Grammar and/or spelling errors hinder meaning * Multiple usage errors * Grammar errors constantly cause reader confusion 	

Additional Comments:

Narrative/Expository Essay

A narrative/expository essay tells a story with a conflict, problem or question as the heart of the story. It creates a strong sense of time and place. Important details and key points are sequenced purposefully. The plot is well developed with important events and realistic characters. The writing informs the reader with new information and clear explanations that reflect the writer’s knowledge of the topic.

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<p><i>Ideas and Content</i> _____ points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Narrow topic that explores and event/person significant to the writer * Relevant description and dialogue “show” scenes and create characters * Ideas are fresh and original, explaining how person/event changed the writer * Essay shows insight into the writer’s experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Topic is fairly broad * Writer generally stays on topic * More telling than showing * Support attempted * Reasonably clear ideas, more in-depth explanation desired * Difficulty from general to specific, reader has ?s 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Writer is still in search of a topic * Information is limited, unclear * Length inadequate for development * Ideas are simple and/or repetitive * Repetitious, disconnected, random thoughts 	
<p><i>Voice</i> _____ points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Reader feels strong interaction with writer * Tone and voice add original twist to message * Honest, personal narrative * Strong commitment to topic in expository 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Earnest, pleasing communication * Personal insights are discarded in favor of safe generalities * Narratives seem sincere * Expository lacks consistent engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Monotonous, risk-free style * Lifeless, mechanical writing * Writer is not connected to audience * Mismatch for intended reader * No point of view 	
<p><i>Organization</i> _____ points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Inviting intro. draws reader in * Satisfying conclusion clarifies impact and focus * Transitions are smooth between sentences and paragraphs * Sequencing is logical and effective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Recognizable intro. and conclusion * Transitions often work well * Sequencing shows logic, yet structure takes away from content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * No real lead * Connections between ideas are confusing * Sequencing needs work * Problems with organization make it hard to find the main point 	
<p><i>Word Choice</i> _____ points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Words are specific, accurate * Words and phrases create lingering pictures * Language is natural and not over done * Striking words and phrases catch the reader’s eye * Lively verbs, precise nouns, accurate modifiers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Words accurate, correct in a general sense * Attempts at colorful lang. with familiar words * Passive verbs, everyday nouns and adjectives, lack of interesting adverbs * Occasionally refined words and phrases * Little sparkle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Language is vague * “Blah, blah, blah” * Words are used incorrectly * Limited vocab, misused parts of speech * Jargons, clichés, persistent redundancy * Words just don’t work in the piece 	
<p><i>Sentence Fluency</i> _____ points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Easy flow, rhythm, cadence * Sentences enhance meaning * Sentences vary in length and structure * Purposeful, varied sentence beginnings * Creative, appropriate connectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Comprehensible but routine sentences * Sentences usually constructed correctly * Sentence beginnings not all alike, some variety * Reader has to hunt for clues * Parts of text easy to read aloud, others choppy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Sentences are choppy, incomplete, rambling or awkward * Phrasing does not sound natural * Sentences begin the same way * Endless connectives * Does not invite oral reading 	
<p><i>Conventions</i> _____ points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Grammar and usage are correct * Spelling is generally correct * Writer may successfully manipulate conventions for style * Punctuation and capitalization are accurate * Paragraphing is sound 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Spelling usually correct or reasonably phonetic on common words * Paragraphing attempted * Punctuation and capitalization usually correct * Problems with grammar and usage not serious 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Frequent spelling errors * Punctuation and capitalization are missing, incorrect or random * Grammar and usage errors very noticeable * Paragraphing missing 	

Additional Comments:

Persuasive Essay

A persuasive essay develops an argument showing evidence to support a strong opinion.

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<i>Ideas and Content</i> _____ <i>points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Narrow, specific focus * Thesis statement with arguable position and preview of main arguments * Clearly knowledgeable writer * New ideas * Many showing details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Sometimes clear/sometimes fuzzy * Does not rely solely on opinion * Unsupportable or misleading info. eliminated * Info. is redundant or old * Some vague details included 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does not know the topic * Vague details * Lack of evidence * Multiple stands taken in the paper 	
<i>Voice</i> _____ <i>points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Persuasive/formal style * Passionate but not over emotional * Wit/Creative presentation of ideas * Personality abounds, unique sound * Not afraid to state opinion confidently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Personality shown here and there, not consistent * Pleasant to read but cautious tone * No clear passion for writer's stand * Some vague evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * No risks taken * Weak writing, no stand * Vague details and evidence 	
<i>Organization</i> _____ <i>points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Strong intro. with lead-in * Final, memorable conclusion * Transitions link ideas and paragraphs * Well-structured argument * Well-supported evidence * Nothing new in conclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Multi-paragraph structure * Not clear how all details tie in * Conclusion is not original or it lacks focus * Weak lead-in * Ideas are tied together * Conclusion ties back to lead with nothing new 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * No shaping * Unclear beginning and ending * Scrambled/ jumbled writing * Paragraph breaks non-existent or randomly motivated * New ideas introduced in conclusion 	
<i>Word Choice</i> _____ <i>points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Words fit style * Varied word choice * Word choice used to help develop unique showing * Nothing vague 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Reader pauses due to confusing or inaccurate words * Lacks specificity * More telling than showing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Misused, vague words * No pictures created with words * Limited word choice * Inappropriate language 	
<i>Sentence Fluency</i> _____ <i>points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Sentence structure is varied * Flow is smooth and natural * Sentences are economized, concise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Mostly simple sentences * Halting sentences * Extraneous wording in sentences * Few run-ons/ fragments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Repetition in sentence structure * Fragments and run-ons abound * General flow confusion 	
<i>Conventions</i> _____ <i>points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Grammatical errors do not impede meaning * Spelling is accurate * Proofreading errors are eliminated * Punctuation errors do not impede meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Grammar makes reader stumble * Spelling distracts reader * Proofreading distracts reader * Punctuation distracts reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Grammar and/or spelling errors hinder meaning * Multiple usage errors * Grammar errors constantly cause reader confusion 	

Additional Comments:

Research Essay

In the research paper, students will learn the skills of researching, paraphrasing, and citing information continuing to improve and develop writing skills attained in previous writing assignments. In a research paper, plagiarism will result in a grade of “zero” for the entire paper.

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Date: _____

Grade: _____

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<i>Ideas and Content</i> _____ <i>points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Clear and focused topic * Specific examples used to support ideas * Research demonstrates knowledge/ understanding of topic * Insight and analysis present * Ideas and sentence structure original – no plagiarism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Sometimes clear/ sometimes fuzzy * Does not provide consistent support * Unsupportable or misleading info. eliminated * Info. is redundant or dated * Some vague details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does not know the topic * Vague details * Lack of evidence * Multiple stands taken in the paper 	
<i>Voice</i> _____ <i>points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Creative presentation of ideas * Unique sound to topic, idea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Pleasant to read but cautious tone * Typical topic idea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * No risks taken * Weak idea, no passion 	
<i>Research Skills/ Presentation</i> _____ <i>points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Correct citation format * Correct works cited page format * Correct pagination * Traditional fonts and font style * Variety of sources used * Quality sources used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Inconsistency in citation * Inconsistency in works cited page * Inconsistency in source quality * Limited sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Incorrect citation format * Incorrect works cited page * Incorrect pagination * Unusual fonts * No source variation * Unacceptable sources 	
<i>Organization</i> _____ <i>points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Original title * Intro. contains lead and clear, argumentative thesis * Transitions used to link paragraphs and ideas within paragraphs * Clear topic sentence in each body paragraph * Conclusion links ideas back to intro. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Multi-paragraph structure * Weak lead-in * Not clear how details tie in * Transitions do not fully link ideas * Some topic sentences exist, clarity needed * New ideas in conclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * No clear beginning, middle or end * No transitions * Writing is scrambled, jumbled * No shaping * No thesis statement 	
<i>Word Choice</i> _____ <i>points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Formal voice is used * Words are specific, accurate * Vocab exceeds grade level, used correctly * Active verbs, precise nouns, precise modifiers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Formal voice varies * Some vague, dead words * Age appropriate vocab * Some wordiness * Imprecise nouns or incorrectly placed modifiers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * No formal voice (first and second person throughout) * Misused, vague words * Limited, word choice 	
<i>Sentence Fluency</i> _____ <i>points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Sentence structure is varied * Sentences are economized, concise * Purposeful, varied sentence beginnings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Some sentence variation in length and structure * Extraneous wording in sentences * Sentences wordy and/or awkward at times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Simple sentence structure throughout * Awkward phrasing impedes meaning * Wordiness impedes understanding 	
<i>Conventions</i> _____ <i>points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Grammatical errors do not impede meaning * Spelling is accurate * Proofreading errors are eliminated * Punctuation errors do not impede meaning * Quotes, citations formatted correctly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Grammar makes reader stumble * Spelling distracts reader * Proofreading distracts reader * Punctuation distracts reader * Some quotes, citations formatted correctly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Grammar and/or spelling errors hinder meaning * Multiple usage errors * Grammar errors constantly cause reader confusion 	

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