

# Example Literary Analysis Essay

## Literary Analysis Essay Example for College

### A Literary Essay About "Eleven" by Sandra Cisneros

Children are often intimidated and fall silent when in the company of adults and they use coping strategies to deal with their inner frustration. In "Eleven," the main character, Rachel, states, "...if I was one hundred and two I'd have known what to say when Mrs. Price put the red sweater on my desk." Throughout "Eleven" Rachel frequently feels intimidated by Mrs. Price. Many times she becomes silent and tries to cope with her frustration.

In the beginning of "Eleven," Rachel feels intimidated and is silenced by Mrs. Price. An example of this is when Mrs. Price says, "Of course it's yours. I remember you wearing it once (the sweater)." Because she's older and the teacher, she's right and I'm not." Rachel is frustrated when Mrs. Price demands that she put the sweater on and does not allow her to explain that it is not her sweater.

Rachel, while still silent, attempts to cope by thinking about happy thoughts. She thinks about her birthday dinner that evening. She also thinks about the birthday cake Mama is making and everyone singing happy birthday. As I read I viewed her frustration and found another place in the text when this happened. "I squeeze them (eyes) shut tight and bite down on my teeth real hard and try to remember I am eleven, eleven." This shows me that even though she is close to tears in frustration, she still tries to think about the happy family time that will happen later that day.

A few moments later, Rachel is intimidated even more when Mrs. Price says, "You put that sweater on right now and no more nonsense." Rachel is still frustrated and tries to cope when she tells Mrs. Price that it is not her sweater. Another example of this is when Mrs. Price replied loudly, "Now!" Rachel is silenced again by an adult and now she's feeling that she doesn't even want to be eleven, while fighting back tears.

As you can see from Rachel's experience, children are often intimidated and silenced when in the company of adults. In families and in school, children are silenced many times by older family members or schoolmates. As a reader I really empathized with Rachel and her struggle to communicate with Mrs. Price. Not all of us are as lucky as Rachel to have such great coping skills. I admired how she was able to control her frustration and her tears, so that she would not be further humiliated by her teacher and even more embarrassed in front of her peers. Schools and communities everywhere should reach out and teach adults that they need to be aware of the power they have, which can cause children to feel intimidated and fall silent.

*Adapted by Katherine Casey for Marysville School District, 2010, from the work of the Hackensack Literary Initiative, 2007.*

**EXAMPLE LITERARY ANALYSIS ESSAY** IS A TERM THAT ENCOMPASSES THE CRITICAL EVALUATION OF LITERARY WORKS. ANALYZING LITERATURE IS A PRACTICE THAT ALLOWS READERS TO DELVE DEEPER INTO THE TEXT, UNCOVERING THEMES, CHARACTERS, SYMBOLS, AND STYLISTIC ELEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE OVERALL MEANING OF A WORK. THIS ARTICLE WILL PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE ON HOW TO CRAFT AN EFFECTIVE LITERARY ANALYSIS ESSAY, USING AN EXAMPLE TO ILLUSTRATE KEY POINTS.

## UNDERSTANDING LITERARY ANALYSIS

LITERARY ANALYSIS INVOLVES DISSECTING A PIECE OF LITERATURE TO UNDERSTAND ITS MEANING AND THE TECHNIQUES THE AUTHOR EMPLOYS TO CONVEY THAT MEANING. THE AIM IS TO INTERPRET THE TEXT AND PRESENT A WELL-SUPPORTED ARGUMENT ABOUT ITS SIGNIFICANCE. WHEN ANALYZING A LITERARY WORK, SEVERAL COMPONENTS MUST BE CONSIDERED:

- **THEME:** THE CENTRAL IDEA OR MESSAGE THAT THE AUTHOR IS CONVEYING.
- **CHARACTERS:** THE INDIVIDUALS IN THE STORY AND THEIR DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT THE TEXT.
- **PLOT:** THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS THAT MAKE UP THE STORY.
- **SETTING:** THE TIME AND PLACE WHERE THE STORY OCCURS.

- **LITERARY DEVICES:** TECHNIQUES SUCH AS SYMBOLISM, IMAGERY, AND METAPHOR THAT ENHANCE THE NARRATIVE.

## COMPONENTS OF A LITERARY ANALYSIS ESSAY

A WELL-STRUCTURED LITERARY ANALYSIS ESSAY TYPICALLY CONSISTS OF SEVERAL KEY COMPONENTS:

### 1. INTRODUCTION

IN THE INTRODUCTION, THE WRITER SHOULD:

- INTRODUCE THE LITERARY WORK AND ITS AUTHOR.
- PRESENT THE THESIS STATEMENT, WHICH OUTLINES THE MAIN ARGUMENT OR INTERPRETATION.
- PROVIDE SOME CONTEXT ABOUT THE WORK, INCLUDING ITS SIGNIFICANCE AND RELEVANCE.

EXAMPLE:

IN GEORGE ORWELL'S "1984," THE AUTHOR EXPLORES THE THEMES OF TOTALITARIANISM AND INDIVIDUALISM THROUGH THE EXPERIENCES OF WINSTON SMITH, A MAN GRAPPLING WITH THE OPPRESSIVE REGIME OF BIG BROTHER. THIS ESSAY WILL ANALYZE HOW ORWELL USES SYMBOLISM AND CHARACTERIZATION TO CONVEY THE DANGERS OF A SURVEILLANCE STATE.

### 2. BODY PARAGRAPHS

THE BODY OF THE ESSAY IS WHERE THE WRITER DEVELOPS THEIR ARGUMENT IN DETAIL. EACH PARAGRAPH SHOULD FOCUS ON A SPECIFIC POINT THAT SUPPORTS THE THESIS STATEMENT. A COMMON STRUCTURE FOR BODY PARAGRAPHS INCLUDES:

- TOPIC SENTENCE: INTRODUCES THE MAIN IDEA OF THE PARAGRAPH.
- EVIDENCE: PROVIDES QUOTES OR EXAMPLES FROM THE TEXT TO SUPPORT THE CLAIM.
- ANALYSIS: EXPLAINS HOW THE EVIDENCE RELATES TO THE THESIS AND WHAT IT REVEALS ABOUT THE WORK.

EXAMPLE STRUCTURE FOR BODY PARAGRAPH:

- TOPIC SENTENCE: IN "1984," THE CHARACTER OF WINSTON SMITH EMBODIES THE STRUGGLE FOR INDIVIDUALITY IN AN OPPRESSIVE SOCIETY.
- EVIDENCE: ORWELL WRITES, "IF YOU WANT TO KEEP A SECRET, YOU MUST ALSO HIDE IT FROM YOURSELF."
- ANALYSIS: THIS QUOTE ILLUSTRATES WINSTON'S INTERNAL CONFLICT AS HE SEEKS TO MAINTAIN HIS SENSE OF SELF IN A WORLD THAT DEMANDS CONFORMITY. HIS STRUGGLE SYMBOLIZES THE BROADER FIGHT AGAINST TOTALITARIANISM, HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL FREEDOM.

### 3. CONCLUSION

THE CONCLUSION SHOULD:

- SUMMARIZE THE MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED IN THE BODY.
- RESTATE THE THESIS IN LIGHT OF THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED.
- OFFER INSIGHTS OR IMPLICATIONS REGARDING THE LITERARY WORK'S SIGNIFICANCE.

EXAMPLE:

IN CONCLUSION, GEORGE ORWELL'S "1984" SERVES AS A CAUTIONARY TALE ABOUT THE PERILS OF TOTALITARIANISM AND THE EROSION OF INDIVIDUALITY. THROUGH THE USE OF COMPELLING CHARACTERS AND SYMBOLIC ELEMENTS, ORWELL EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATES THE IMPORTANCE OF RESISTING OPPRESSIVE REGIMES, MAKING THE NOVEL A TIMELESS WARNING AGAINST THE LOSS OF FREEDOM.

# EXAMPLE LITERARY ANALYSIS ESSAY: "THE GREAT GATSBY" BY F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

TO BETTER ILLUSTRATE THE PROCESS OF LITERARY ANALYSIS, LET'S CONSIDER AN EXAMPLE ESSAY FOCUSED ON F. SCOTT FITZGERALD'S "THE GREAT GATSBY."

## INTRODUCTION

IN F. SCOTT FITZGERALD'S "THE GREAT GATSBY," THE AUTHOR CAPTURES THE ESSENCE OF THE AMERICAN DREAM THROUGH THE TRAGIC STORY OF JAY GATSBY, A MAN WHOSE PURSUIT OF WEALTH AND STATUS LEADS TO HIS ULTIMATE DOWNFALL. THIS ESSAY WILL ANALYZE HOW FITZGERALD USES SYMBOLISM AND THE CONTRASTING SETTINGS OF EAST EGG AND WEST EGG TO EXPLORE THEMES OF ASPIRATION, CLASS STRUGGLE, AND THE ELUSIVE NATURE OF THE AMERICAN DREAM.

## BODY PARAGRAPH 1: SYMBOLISM OF THE GREEN LIGHT

THE GREEN LIGHT AT THE END OF DAISY BUCHANAN'S DOCK SERVES AS A POWERFUL SYMBOL THROUGHOUT THE NOVEL.

- TOPIC SENTENCE: THE GREEN LIGHT REPRESENTS GATSBY'S UNATTAINABLE DREAMS AND DESIRES.
- EVIDENCE: FITZGERALD WRITES, "GATSBY BELIEVED IN THE GREEN LIGHT, THE ORGASTIC FUTURE THAT YEAR BY YEAR RECEDES BEFORE US."
- ANALYSIS: THIS QUOTE ENCAPSULATES GATSBY'S HOPE AND OPTIMISM, AS HE REACHES FOR SOMETHING JUST OUT OF HIS GRASP. THE GREEN LIGHT SYMBOLIZES THE AMERICAN DREAM ITSELF—AN IDEAL THAT CONTINUALLY ELUDES THOSE WHO CHASE IT.

## BODY PARAGRAPH 2: THE CONTRAST OF EAST EGG AND WEST EGG

FITZGERALD CONTRASTS THE SETTINGS OF EAST EGG AND WEST EGG TO HIGHLIGHT THE DIVIDE BETWEEN OLD MONEY AND NEW MONEY.

- TOPIC SENTENCE: THE GEOGRAPHICAL DIVIDE BETWEEN EAST EGG AND WEST EGG ILLUSTRATES THE SOCIAL HIERARCHY OF THE 1920s.
- EVIDENCE: EAST EGG, HOME TO THE ESTABLISHED ARISTOCRACY, IS DEPICTED AS "GORGEOUS," WHILE WEST EGG, WHERE GATSBY RESIDES, IS CHARACTERIZED BY ITS "LESS FASHIONABLE" HOMES.
- ANALYSIS: THIS CONTRAST EMPHASIZES THE INHERENT INEQUALITIES AND CLASS STRUGGLES WITHIN AMERICAN SOCIETY. GATSBY'S LAVISH PARTIES ARE A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE FROM THE ELITE, SHOWCASING THE SUPERFICIALITY OF WEALTH AND THE BARRIERS THAT EXIST WITHIN THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE.

## CONCLUSION

IN SUMMARY, "THE GREAT GATSBY" BY F. SCOTT FITZGERALD SERVES AS A POIGNANT CRITIQUE OF THE AMERICAN DREAM, REVEALING THE EMPTINESS THAT OFTEN ACCOMPANIES THE PURSUIT OF WEALTH AND SOCIAL STATUS. THROUGH THE USE OF SYMBOLISM AND THE CONTRASTING SETTINGS OF EAST EGG AND WEST EGG, FITZGERALD EFFECTIVELY ILLUSTRATES THE COMPLEXITIES OF ASPIRATION AND THE HARSH REALITIES OF CLASS DISPARITY. THE NOVEL REMAINS A TIMELESS EXPLORATION OF THE HUMAN CONDITION AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS IN A MATERIALISTIC WORLD.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

WRITING A LITERARY ANALYSIS ESSAY PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE DEEPLY WITH A TEXT, UNCOVERING ITS LAYERS OF MEANING AND EXPLORING THE AUTHOR'S INTENTIONS. BY UNDERSTANDING THE COMPONENTS OF A LITERARY ANALYSIS ESSAY AND EMPLOYING A STRUCTURED APPROACH, WRITERS CAN CRAFT COMPELLING ARGUMENTS THAT RESONATE WITH READERS. WHETHER ANALYZING CLASSIC LITERATURE OR CONTEMPORARY WORKS, THE PRINCIPLES OF LITERARY ANALYSIS REMAIN THE SAME, ENCOURAGING CRITICAL THINKING AND A DEEPER APPRECIATION FOR THE ART OF STORYTELLING.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A LITERARY ANALYSIS ESSAY?

THE PURPOSE OF A LITERARY ANALYSIS ESSAY IS TO EXAMINE AND INTERPRET A PIECE OF LITERATURE, EXPLORING ITS THEMES, CHARACTERS, AND STYLISTIC ELEMENTS TO PROVIDE A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE TEXT.

### WHAT ARE THE KEY COMPONENTS OF A LITERARY ANALYSIS ESSAY?

KEY COMPONENTS INCLUDE AN INTRODUCTION WITH A THESIS STATEMENT, BODY PARAGRAPHS THAT PROVIDE EVIDENCE AND ANALYSIS, AND A CONCLUSION THAT SUMMARIZES THE FINDINGS AND REFLECTS ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ANALYSIS.

### HOW DO YOU CHOOSE A TEXT FOR LITERARY ANALYSIS?

CHOOSING A TEXT FOR LITERARY ANALYSIS INVOLVES SELECTING A WORK THAT RESONATES WITH YOU, HAS RICH THEMES OR COMPLEX CHARACTERS, AND OFFERS AMPLE MATERIAL FOR EXPLORATION AND DISCUSSION.

### WHAT IS A THESIS STATEMENT IN A LITERARY ANALYSIS ESSAY?

A THESIS STATEMENT IN A LITERARY ANALYSIS ESSAY IS A CONCISE SUMMARY OF THE MAIN POINT OR CLAIM THAT THE WRITER INTENDS TO PROVE THROUGHOUT THE ESSAY, OFTEN REFLECTING AN INTERPRETATION OF THE TEXT.

### HOW IMPORTANT IS TEXTUAL EVIDENCE IN A LITERARY ANALYSIS ESSAY?

TEXTUAL EVIDENCE IS CRUCIAL IN A LITERARY ANALYSIS ESSAY AS IT SUPPORTS THE CLAIMS MADE BY THE WRITER, PROVIDING CONCRETE EXAMPLES FROM THE TEXT TO VALIDATE THEIR INTERPRETATIONS.

### WHAT ROLE DOES THE CONCLUSION PLAY IN A LITERARY ANALYSIS ESSAY?

THE CONCLUSION OF A LITERARY ANALYSIS ESSAY SUMMARIZES THE MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED, REINFORCES THE THESIS, AND MAY SUGGEST BROADER IMPLICATIONS OR REFLECTIONS ON THE WORK'S RELEVANCE OR IMPACT.

### CAN A LITERARY ANALYSIS ESSAY INCLUDE PERSONAL OPINIONS?

WHILE PERSONAL OPINIONS CAN BE INCLUDED, THEY SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BY EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT; THE FOCUS SHOULD REMAIN ON ANALYZING THE LITERARY ELEMENTS RATHER THAN SOLELY EXPRESSING PERSONAL VIEWS.

### WHAT LITERARY DEVICES SHOULD BE ANALYZED IN A LITERARY ANALYSIS ESSAY?

COMMON LITERARY DEVICES TO ANALYZE INCLUDE SYMBOLISM, IMAGERY, METAPHOR, TONE, CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT, AND NARRATIVE STRUCTURE, AS THEY CONTRIBUTE TO THE OVERALL MEANING AND AESTHETIC OF THE WORK.

### HOW CAN ONE IMPROVE THEIR LITERARY ANALYSIS WRITING SKILLS?

IMPROVING LITERARY ANALYSIS WRITING SKILLS CAN INVOLVE READING A VARIETY OF LITERARY WORKS, PRACTICING WRITING ESSAYS, SEEKING FEEDBACK, AND STUDYING SUCCESSFUL LITERARY ANALYSES TO UNDERSTAND EFFECTIVE TECHNIQUES.

<https://soc.up.edu.ph/54-tone/pdf?trackid=fbT35-6580&title=software-engineering-10th-edition.pdf>

example.com□□□□□□\_□□□□

@example.com□□□□□□□□\_□□□□

██████@example.com██████ - ████████

“someone@ example.com”

example.com

## [GA4] Create custom metrics - Analytics Help

émail@example.com is the same as email@example.com? - Gmail ...

Create a Gmail account - Google Help

**someone@example**? -

example 163 yahoou,sina,gq —

example.com

