

A.L.I.S. Culminating Essay

"The best of a book is not the thought which it contains, but the thought which it suggests; just as the charm of music dwells not in the tones but in the echoes of our hearts."

[Oliver Wendell Holmes](#)

1. The **introduction** consists of 1 paragraph.
 - Capture the reader's interest. (An effective way to do this is to explain why you chose your thematic topic. Use personal anecdotes and vivid images. Allow your voice to emerge.)
 - Give background information about the theory as it relates to your text. Incorporate research. Define necessary terms.
 - State the thesis and projected plan in the last 1-2 sentences.
2. The **body** consists of 3 *paragraphs*.
 - Begin each *paragraph* with a topic sentence that states an idea related to the thesis. Organize your essay around *ideas* relating to your critical lens.
 - In the body of your essay, incorporate information from your primary and secondary sources (novel and critical theory information. Cite these sources parenthetically, using MLA format
 - Develop your ideas fully. In each section, integrate quotations and textual details from sources. Analyze all examples, probing to the underlying ideas. Be sure to provide clear topic sentences and transitions to guide your reader.
3. The **conclusion** is a single paragraph that recalls the thesis and discusses the **relevance** and **significance** of the ideas that you have explored. Explain what you have learned about your novel and your critical theory. Put your own personal stamp on this paragraph. Explain how these books relate to your life and to America today. The last sentence must have impact.
4. You will be judged on the strength of your argument, the depth of your insight, the quality of literature you have chosen, and the power of your writing. You are expected to write a clear, interesting, and convincing essay. Voice and tone should be evident. Syntax should be varied and sophisticated. Figures of speech should appear. Mechanics should be flawless.
5. Type everything properly—MLA style. And don't forget the Works Cited page!! (You should have a total of 3 pages max (1" margins, double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 font, MLA heading, Last Name/pg. # at the top right of each page.)

Literary Analysis Essay: Outline

I. Attention Getter: _____

A. Background, overview of critical lens: _____

B. Thesis: _____

II. Main point of first paragraph: _____

A. Quotes or examples to illustrate argument: _____

B. Explanation of how quote/example demonstrates a facet of your thesis:

C. . Quotes or examples to illustrate argument: _____

D. Explanation of how quote/example demonstrates a facet of your thesis:

E. How does the previous paragraph relate to your thesis? _____

III. Main point of second paragraph: _____

A. Quote or example to illustrate argument: _____

B. Explanation of how quote/example demonstrates a facet of your thesis:

C. Quotes or examples to illustrate argument: _____

D. Explanation of how quote/example demonstrate a facet of your thesis:

E. How does the previous paragraph relate to your thesis? _____

IV. Main point of third paragraph: _____

F. Quote or example to illustrate argument: _____

G. Explanation of how quote/example demonstrates a facet of your thesis:

H. Quotes or examples to illustrate argument: _____

I. Explanation of how quote/example demonstrate a facet of your thesis:

J. How does the previous paragraph relate to your thesis? _____

V. Conclusion: Application to Society—what do we learn about human nature, society, culture, history, or individuals from these texts? _____

➤ This outline will be due at the time of your scheduled conference. Plan to be five minutes early in case I am running ahead. My conference occurs _____ . ***Should I write this in my planner? I think so!***
When is my paper due? _____ I should turn in my brain _____, my out _____, my rou _____ draft, and my fin _____ draft. Should I use a folder with pockets? YES, FOR THE LOVE OF ALIS!