

English 203 Essay Assignment—A Critical Analysis

First, please select a literary work that we have covered in this class and that you did not discuss in Paper 1. I suggest that your choice be a piece that has touched you in some way and that you enjoyed. Researching articles written about a favorite work is somewhat less painful than doing so for one that has no particular appeal for you.

When you have made a selection, you should then begin your research efforts. Select an article that focuses on some aspect of your chosen piece of literature. The best method for searching is to begin with humanities databases such as MLA, Infotrac, and so forth. Be sure that the author comes fully equipped with appropriate scholarly credentials. His or her credibility is critical to the success of your paper.

In addition to an appropriate general **Introduction** (which will end with a strong thesis statement), your essay should include three sections subtitled as follows: **Summary**, **Analysis**, and **Conclusion**. Multiple paragraphs may exist within each section. The **Summary** should state the author's main point as well as the supporting evidence he or she has used in the article. (Please do not simply repeat the entire piece; the focus here is on summary.) The **Analysis** allows you to agree or disagree with the author's thesis. Be specific with your comments. Did your interpretation of the primary literary work conflict with what the writer of the article says? Why or why not? Are the examples used appropriate or do they seem forced? The **Conclusion** must explain your opinion of the article chosen. Was it insightful and effective or boring and obvious? What did the writer say that made you think? What did he or she write that didn't seem logical? Expand each section as needed to address other questions critical to your selection.

Be sure to integrate your source seamlessly into your essay, using documentation techniques set forth in "Winthrop's Correct Use of Borrowed Information." You can find this document on my faculty webpage and also on the English Department's webpage. Be sure to photocopy the pages of the article from which you have borrowed information and staple them onto the back of the essay. Your essay should be 3-4 pages long and in MLA format. Don't forget to check the syllabus for specifics on font size, etc. Good luck!