

HOW TO BEGIN YOUR LITERARY ANALYSIS



STEP ONE

Read a good book towards your forty book challenge. Keep in mind that your analysis should follow the schedule below:

October- Diverse

April- Poetry Collection

November- Choice

May- Choice

December- Community Service Book

January- Banned Book

February- Choice

March- Choice

STEP TWO

What's the point you are trying to make with your essay? This will help develop your thesis statement (a thesis statement is the overall POINT of your essay). Some points you can analyze are:

Characters

Tone

Irony

Plot

Suspense

Conflict

Setting

Symbolism

Point of View

Theme

Historical Context

STEP TWO CONTINUED

Pick a literary element that speaks to from your text. Is the setting really important or interesting? Does the theme hold a great meaning to you?

Then consider what that literary element does for the text. What is the effect of the setting, theme, characters, etc.?

STEP TWO CONTINUED

Example using the *Twilight* novels.

One reader thought the *Twilight* novels were a poor choice in YA novels for readers. She wrote an essay on this. She didn't find much she liked in the books, but found something she disliked and analyzed why it was problematic.

What's something you found interesting in *Twelve Angry Men* that you could write about?

STEP THREE

Focus your topic.

Why is the particular literary element of particular importance in your chosen reading? How does this element relate to the world? The human condition? In other words, why should your reader even care?????

Use this information to develop your thesis statement.

STEP THREE CONTINUED

Let's use the example of the *Twilight* essay again. The student felt that it was a poor choice for readers. Why? Why should they care? What does that matter to random readers' lives?

She decided that the books had a negative influence, and that influence was especially harmful to the teen readers the book targeted.

Why should readers care about our topic from *Twelve Angry Men*?

YOUR ASSIGNMENT

Brainstorm what you can write about for your literary analysis. What do you want to write about in your essay? Why should your readers care?

Type your answers in the assignment on Google Classroom.

If you finish early, begin to look for details in your book to support your ideas.

DO NOT SUBMIT THIS YET. You will do your exit ticket on this assignment as well.

Writing a thesis statement

Thesis statement starter:

_____ is true because _____.

You can change the wording later to make it sound better. So a possible thesis for an argument for Marvel Comics movies being superior to DC movies could be:

The fact that Marvel Comics movies are more popular than DC movies is true because Marvel Comics movies have made more money and the characters are more diverse than DC movies.

It sounds clunky, but can be fixed later.

Sample Introduction

There are many great books on the market today, books that grab a reader's attention and make them want to read more. There are many books I would suggest for teens looking for a great reading experience; the *Twilight* series by Stephenie Meyer is not among them. The *Twilight* series is a terrible choice because it promotes violence, encourages unhealthy self-esteem in teenage girls, and sends harmful gender messages.

STEP FOUR

Gather text evidence.

Look back at your story and find proof that what you stated as your thesis is, in fact, true. This not a summary of the book! Instead, take the evidence and

- Introduce what happened in the story
- Provide evidence (use quotations or paraphrase plot events) that prove the above evidence is important
- ANALYZE the events; analyzing explains *WHY* it is important (FYI- because it is good is not analyzing)

STEP FOUR CONTINUED

This is the point will you will create an outline. What do you want to say? What points do you have to prove it? What in the text supports that point?

Let's look at an outline for the *Twilight* essay.

Outline

Now, let's create an outline for our *Twelve Angry Men* essay.

STEP FIVE

Now, the fun stuff.....

Let's make an introduction. Your teacher is reading 90 of these! Show her why your essay is different and important! Make her *want* to read it!

Finally, a conclusion. A strong conclusion outlines the main idea of the essay, but provides a real live solution to a problem!

EXIT TICKET

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Twelve Angry Men's theme teaches us that everyone has a different point of view.

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