



EN-111: Comp./Interp. of Literature

SUNY Erie

Draft due posted

to Blackboard 11:59 pm 3/4/18

Professor Hyzy

Interpretive Literary Analysis

Final due

posted to Blackboard 8:00 am 3/19/18

Thematic Literary Analysis Essay

1. Consult the below list of literary selections.
2. Choose the theme that you will focus on.
3. Choose the selections that you will analyze as a way of reflecting on the larger theme.
 - If you focus on drama, you may analyze only one selection.
 - If you do not focus on a work of drama, you must analyze and compare a total of three different pieces; these may be all stories, all poems, or a mixture of the two.
4. Consider the following, in relation to the literature you have chosen:
 - How does it reflect on the larger theme?
 - What does each selection say about the larger theme?
 - How is the larger theme important to each?
 - How does the literature **both separately and together** comment on the larger theme?

Your literary analysis should focus first and foremost on the way that the theme you have chosen is present in, important in, and commented on by the literature you have chosen. Links, connections, and comparison between pieces of literature should be considered the most important supporting detail to include in the body of the paper.

Any summary that is included in the paper should **serve a clear and specific purpose**. Summary that is not somehow helping to develop your discussion of thematic commentary and connections will be regarded as irrelevant filler.

Spend the time thinking and writing to find a personal connection with the theme and literature you choose to discuss. Academic writing that lacks such a connection is often perfunctory and vague; more importantly, though, if it isn't obvious that you have found a reason to *care* about your subject matter, then you are most likely wasting your own time. **Find a reason to care about your writing. Find a reason for it to matter to you.**

Finally: your paper should advance and proceed from a definite, focused, directed thesis statement.

A paper that lacks such a thesis statement is no paper at all; it is a set of preliminary notes and drafting materials.

Guidelines:

- 1-inch margins
- 11- or 12-point Times New Roman, Arial, or Calibri font
- Double-spaced
- Running header with last name and page numbers
- 3.5 to 4 pages in length

Literary Selections

The African American Experience

- Short stories
 - Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues" (223)
 - Bambara, "The Lesson" (304)
 - Wright, "The Man Who Was Almost a Man" (180)
- Poems
 - Brooks, "We Real Cool" (542)
 - Randall, "Ballad of Birmingham" (538)
 - Clifton, "at the cemetery, /walnut grove plantation, /south carolina, 1989" (572)
 - Dunbar, "We Wear the Mask" (502)
 - Hughes, "Theme for English B" (524)
 - Hughes, "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" (526)
 - Hughes, "Harlem" (528)
- Dramatic work: Wilson, *Fences* (1030)

The Asian American Experience

- Short stories
 - Far, "In the Land of the Free" (20)
 - Lahiri, "A Temporary Matter" (388)
 - Li, "A Thousand Years of Good Prayers" (405)
- Poems
 - Chin, "How I Got That Name" (642)
 - Faizullah, "En Route to Bangladesh, Another Crisis of Faith" (675)
 - Hahn, "Mother's Mother" (645)
 - Song, "Heaven" (647)

Death and Elegy

- Short stories
 - Anderson, "Death in the Woods" (129)
 - Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily" (168)
 - Lahiri, "A Temporary Matter" (388)
- Poems
 - Auden, [Funeral Blues] (530)
 - Bradstreet, "Verses upon the Burning of Our House" (437)
 - Donne, "Death, be not proud" (432)
 - Heany, "Mid-Term Break" (577)
 - Jonson, "On My First Son" (433)
 - Thomas, "Do not go gentle into that good night" (540)
 - Whitman, "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd" (483)

Family

- Short stories
 - Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues" (223)
 - Welty, "Why I Live at the P.O." (190)
 - Cheever, "Reunion" (201)
- Poems
 - Diaz, "When My Brother Was an Aztec" (672)
 - Hayden, "Those Winter Sundays" (537)
 - Heany, "Digging" (578)
 - Levine, "What Work Is" (556)
 - Olds, "I Go Back to May 1937" (592)
 - Song, "Heaven" (647)
 - Soto, "Moving Away" (627)
- Dramatic work: Wilson, *Fences* (1030)

Fate and Knowledge

- Dramatic work: *Oedipus the King* (685)

Feminism and Gender Expectations

- Short stories
 - Chopin, "The Story of an Hour" (48)
 - Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (64)
 - Kincaid, "Girl" (355)
- Poems
 - Duhamel, "Kinky" (651)
 - Lanyer, "Eve's Apology in Defense of Women" (428)
 - Lockwood, "Rape Joke" (676)
 - Rich, "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers" (560)
 - Rich, "Diving Into the Wreck" (561)

The Latino Experience

- Short stories
 - Diaz, "How to Date a..." (402)
 - Gilb, "Shout" (357)
- Poems
 - Baca, "Family Ties" (628)
 - Corral, "In Colorado My Father Scoured and Stacked Dishes" (668)
 - Gonzalez, "Praise the Tortilla, Praise Menudo, Praise Chorizo" (624)
 - Rios, "Nani" (626)
 - Soto, "Moving Away" (627)

Love, Desire, and Relationships

- Short stories
 - Chekhov, "The Lady with the Dog" (50)
 - Fitzgerald, "Winter Dreams" (149)
 - Hurston, "Sweat" (139)
 - Updike, "A&P" (268)
- Poems
 - Auden, [Funeral Blues] (530)
 - Donne, "A Valediction: Forbidden Mourning" (431)
 - Duhamel, "Kinky" (651)
 - Hoagland, "A History of Desire" (631)
 - Marlowe, "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love" (424)
 - Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress" (439)
 - Mayer, "Sonnet (You jerk you didn't call me up)" (598)
 - Wroth, "Am I Thus Conquer'd?" (433)

The Native American Experience

- Short stories
 - Alexie, "The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven" (382)
 - Erdrich, "The Red Convertible" (361)
- Poems
 - Alexie, "Postcards to Columbus" (660)
 - Diaz, "When My Brother Was an Aztec" (672)
 - Welch, "Christmas Comes to Moccasin Flat" (583)

Racism and Racial Relations

- Dramatic work: Akhtar, *Disgraced* (1156)
- Poems
 - Derricotte, "A Note on My Son's Face" (588)
 - Hayes, "Talk" (666)
 - Randall, "Ballad of Birmingham" (538)
 - Smith, "Skinhead" (639)
 - Tretheway, "History Lesson" (661)

War

- Dramatic work: Nottage, *Ruined* (1089)
- Poems (choose 3 to work with)
 - Jarrell, "The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner" (541)
 - Majumdar, "Arms and the Man" (674)
 - Tate, "The Lost Pilot" (594)
 - Turner, "What Every Soldier Should Know" (665)
 - Whitman, "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd" (483)