

Student's Name

Professor's Name

Course

Date

## How to Write a Literary Analysis Essay

### **Introduction**

A literary analysis essay examines and evaluates certain aspects of a fiction in literature. The process involves breaking down the issue of consideration into its essentials and constituting parts. Notably, the exercise does not end at the examination of the elements of a fiction, but the process extends to enlightening the reader on the other literary areas of the involved text. In the analysis of a poem, for instance, the writer may identify its various parts and, at the same time, link the content of the work. On the contrary, in a play analysis, the author mediates between the main plots while outlining the character flow of the primary actors. Overall, literary analysis aims at convincing a reader that the idea developed in the story has a wide range of support. Therefore, the literary analysis essay must clarify the main idea or theme in a work of literature and help a reader to conceptualize it with ease.

### **Principles of a Literary Analysis Essay**

One of the major principles of a literary analysis essay is the topic of the work. The theme gives direction to a reader as to what the writer intends to say. It is the accent that attracts a reader towards a certain literary work, and without it, no one would be interested in a paper. Thus, throughout the essay, the writer should maintain the topic without deviating so as to enable a reader to have a streamlined form of understanding.

Another consideration should be on the central idea that governs an essay's development. It is important to note that in a literary analysis essay, the writer initiates a central idea that forms the theme and enables a reader to understand the work easily. In addition, all other ideas in the body of the essay get directed towards the main agenda for the work to generate the required purpose and theme to a reader. On the same note, organization of all parts of the essay is an equally important aspect in identifying a good literary analysis work. Therefore, all sections of the essay should be organized to head to the central idea in efforts to have a smooth flow of thoughts throughout the analysis. In this regard, the organization starts with an introduction, continues with a body, and finally, ends with a summary of all the work in the concluding paragraph. In the body section, the paragraphs should get arranged towards supporting the main idea. In the conclusion, the thesis statement should be restated, and the major idea – summarized in entirety.

### **Constituents of a Literary Analysis Essay**

*Introduction.* This section should capture the readers' attention to the work. Consequently, it is to act like a shadow of the main matter to get discussed. To achieve this, a writer can post fundamental questions that leave the readers wanting to get answers, and it will make them to read more. On the same note, the title of the work and the author's name should be mentioned in the introduction of the essay.

*Thesis Statement.* It provides a reader with expectations on what the writing entails. The thesis should be a precise and stringent sentence that outlines the purpose of the essay and the direction it will take. Therefore, literary analysis essay should possess a carefully constructed thesis statement. In most occasions, it comes as the closing sentence in the introduction.

*Body of the Essay and Topic Sentences.* In a literary analysis essay, the body should contain the topic sentences which elaborate on the central idea. This part of the essay is to present, at least, three paragraphs that give support to the thesis statement. Notably, in this section, the writer should exercise freedom to explain the ideas communicated by the theme and provide evidence that supports the same. Moreover, every paragraph in the body should contain a topic sentence that states the thought linked to the thesis, and it supports the central theme. Essentially, sub-elements in the body are to involve giving explanations, summarizing facts, paraphrasing concepts, and using direct quotations where needed to support the general idea in the essay.

*Conclusion.* The concluding section in a literary analysis essay should sprout a sense of completeness and bring a reader to the end of the ideologies expressed. In this section, the thesis statement should be restated. Main ideas may be either summarized in one sentence or the writer can reemphasize the theme. Moreover, in this section, new topics should not be introduced as it would contradict the key idea of the essay. Therefore, the conclusion is an essential element of a literary analysis essay that completes and complements the main idea.

### **Conclusion**

Literary analysis essay should be able to give an in-depth criticism or opinion on a work of fiction. Moreover, it is either to clarify or try to find out the main idea of the work it is analyzing. Most importantly, this kind of writing requires a concrete introduction with a clearly depicted thesis statement. In the body paragraphs, the analysis should provide all facts that point to the thesis statement and the main idea. Lastly, a summary of the whole work that echoes the thesis should be provided.