

**AP LITERARY ANALYSIS PAPER BASED ON
TWO SUMMER NOVELS (70 pts)**

(rev. 2/17/10)

For this assignment, you must develop an approximately four or five page literary analysis paper illuminating a significant thesis in an examination of **two of the summer novels for this course**. During your analysis, you should think deeply about both works in standard areas of analysis such as: tone, diction, structure, characterization, imagery, theme, content and context (as well as other related elements). Connections between the two texts can come to you in surprising ways, so be willing to pursue an unusual idea, but be sure to discuss your unusual idea with your instructor. To do literary analysis the first and most important thing is to carefully reread (you may skim) and review the literary texts you will be discussing in your paper. As you do this, you should take notes recording your questions and ideas.

You may wish to consult some critical essays on the texts, but you shouldn't rely upon others' ideas. This analysis should be based on your own deep reading and analysis of the two texts. Needless-to-say, if you use or build upon someone else's initial analysis, you should adequately paraphrase or quote it with proper parenthetical documentation. Remember that the primary analysis and connections are your responsibility. **This is NOT a review of literature ON the two novels.**

- Literary analysis writing is persuasive writing. It supports YOUR opinion about the literature.
- Your opinion should be about the **THEME** or some interpretive or stylistic aspect(s) connecting the two works.
- Always make clear and detailed references to the works under discussion to prove that your point really is found in the author's words. Be sure to include **specific page references** to paraphrased and/or quoted passages. Assume that the reader has a passing familiarity with aspects of the plot and characters of the novel (your paper is addressed to an informed reader).
- Only a small portion of literary analysis may be summary, and summary must **NEVER** be the main aspect of the essay. Nor does literary analysis consist of making critical judgments of the works. That falls under the area of "critical review." Your primary job is arguing for a particular interpretation of two texts of undeniable literary merit. Assume that the reader is reasonably familiar with the texts.

NOTE: You must submit a properly formatted outline with your paper. Also, remember to include a works cited page and document check materials required by your instructor.

OVERVIEW OF REQUIREMENTS:

CONTENT (40 pts)

1. This paper must focus on a well-developed thesis comparing and contrasting the two novels.
2. Provide sufficient details from the works to support your analysis and make specific references (including but not limited to direct quotation) to the works. These references should be cited appropriately.
3. The relationships/points of comparison between the two works should be significant enough to help the general reader appreciate the works more fully.
4. Organization must be undeniably present. A five-paragraph approach works well as follows: an introduction, a paragraph for each main point of analysis, and a conclusion. You may, however, choose to develop your own organizational structure which naturally complements and enhances content, breaking the analysis into more than five paragraphs.
5. Use of outside critical resources is not required; however, if any are used, they should be of high quality and appropriate to your analysis, not merely tacked on for appearance's sake.
6. The conclusion should provide the reader with a sense of closure and a clear reminder of the key points of analysis.

STYLE (10 pts)

1. Sentence structure and length should be varied
2. Avoid overuse of passive and linking verb sentences.
3. The tone used to address the audience should be suitable and effective for the relatively academic purpose of the essay.
4. Diction/word choice should reveal a command of critical terms of analysis appropriate to the points of comparison used in the essay (themes, structure, characters, etc).

WRITING CONVENTIONS (20 pts)

1. Approximately four or five typed pages.
2. Paragraphs (sections) should clearly contribute to the unity and coherence of the paper.
3. The paper must demonstrate control of conventions that is skilled in nuances and enhances the paper's purpose as well as employ varied prose strategies.
4. Observe all MLA manuscript form requirements.
5. All references to the literary texts should be made to class editions of the texts when possible. Follow MLA citation guidelines for parenthetical documentation and the works cited page. For any critical essays or other works, provide a highlighted photocopy of the sections that you used.
7. Turn in a security copy of your final draft.
8. Include a properly formatted outline of the paper.