



Literary Analysis Essay Outline

THE TASK: You will be writing a response to literature essay detailing how one character from Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* exhibits characteristics of a hero or villain.

WHY: You will be completing this assignment to work towards mastery of the California Common Core Standards for English Language Arts in addition to developing your critical thinking, writing, reflective, and analytical skills.

DUE DATE: Your essay will be due in MLA Format on : _____
To Turnitin.com.

HOW: You will be completing an outline prior to writing the essay as well as deconstructing a sample essay that models the assignment. A rubric will be attached to show you how your essay will be evaluated.

THE OUTLINE

Paragraph 1: *In this paragraph, you will set up the lead-in, background information on the play, and the thesis.*

LEAD-IN: Politicians have capitalized on their power of persuasion to sway voters in one direction or the other. However, only the truly educated individual may navigate through a sea of logical fallacies in search of the truth. In literature as in life, figureheads make decisions that not only affect themselves but those around them. These decisions may conjure up characteristics of self-sacrifice or selfish, self-serving power moves.

BACKGROUND ON THE CRUCIBLE: Arthur Miller's play *The Crucible* tells the story of

THESIS: Select characters, inspired by real people, exhibit characteristics of heroes and villains, either acting out of selflessness or selfishness. Specifically, _____ proves time and time again as _____

Paragraph 2: *Explain how one character from The Crucible acts like a hero (selflessly) or like a villain (selfishly). Make sure to analyze the motivation for that act.*

TOPIC SENTENCE: **Firstly,** _____ **acts like a hero/villain when he/she** _____

BACKGROUND: *In 1-2 sentences, give any set up information necessary to give the reader an understanding and context of what's going on in the text before you drop in your evidence.*

EVIDENCE: *Embed a quote that gives proof on something your character did or said that showcases how he/she was a hero or villain.*

COMMENTARY: *In a minimum of two sentences, analyze what happened in the quote, why that character made that choice (motivation), and what the consequences were of that decision/action/quote.*

WRAP UP-SENTENCE: *Tie everything back to the topic sentence of the paragraph and thesis. This may be already be included in your commentary sentences.*

Paragraph 3: *Give a second example how your character from The Crucible acts like a hero (selflessly) or like a villain (selfishly). Make sure to analyze the motivation for that act.*

TOPIC SENTENCE: **Secondly,** _____ **acts like a hero/villain when** _____

BACKGROUND: *In 1-2 sentences, give any set up information necessary to give the reader an understanding and context of what's going on in the text before you drop in your evidence.*

EVIDENCE: *Embed a quote that gives proof on something your character did or said that showcases how he/she was a hero or villain.*

COMMENTARY: *In a minimum of two sentences, analyze what happened in the quote, why that character made that choice (motivation), and what the consequences were of that decision/action/quote.*

WRAP UP-SENTENCE: *Tie everything back to the topic sentence of the paragraph and thesis. This may be already be included in your commentary sentences.*

Paragraph 4: *Give a third example how your character from The Crucible acts like a hero (selflessly) or like a villain (selfishly). Make sure to analyze the motivation for that act.*

TOPIC SENTENCE: **Proving himself/herself a _____ yet again, _____**

BACKGROUND/EVIDENCE: *You are diving into the background in your very first sentence! Describe a time when you allowed fear to inspire your actions. Give the reader the details leading up to the event including what motivated you to act the way you did. Then describe the event, and end with the consequences of your actions/decision.*

EVIDENCE: *Embed a quote that gives proof on something your character did or said that showcases how he/she was a hero or villain.*

WRAP UP-SENTENCE: *Tie everything back to the topic sentence of the paragraph and thesis. This may be already be included in your commentary sentences.*

Paragraph 5: *This will be your conclusion paragraph that will look much like your first paragraph..*

TOPIC SENTENCE: **For years, powerful and influential speakers have used their oratory gifts for good and bad. Characters in written texts, both fictional and true, unshroud the their potential to serve their respective causes whether they be selfless or selfish.**

RECAP: *Refresh the reader on the three instances when your chosen character acted like a hero or a villain.*

_____ from Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* acted like a _____ when _____
(list three examples using parallelism) _____

CONCLUSION/CLINCHER:

