**English 11 Literary Analysis Expectations**

**Due dates: Tuesday, April 19:** Introduction and Thesis Paragraphs Due Date.

**Tuesday, April 26:** Essay Due Date. Your essay must also be submitted to Safe-Assign (Blackboard’s plagiarism software program) by 11:59 p.m. If your paper is not submitted to Blackboard, the paper copy will not be graded and you will receive the grade of “0”

**Wednesday, May 4:** Project Presentations Begin.

There are no exceptions to the due dates. Late assignments will NOT be accepted. Failure to meet or exceed the minimum page length will result in a poor grade.

Your paper must be submitted to me, in person, by the beginning of your class hour: 1st Hour—7:14 a.m., 2nd Hour – 8:19 a.m., 3rd Hour—9:24 a.m., 4th Hour—10:29 a.m. Late papers will not be accepted and will receive a grade of ZERO. If you are absent April 26, you must still have it in April 26. EXCUSED ABSENCES WILL NOT MATTER (YOU WILL NOT GET AN EXTRA DAY)

1. Minimum of five typed pages (23 lines of text per page). Notice: 4 ¾ pages is not 5 pages!

\*\*THE WORKS CITED PAGE IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE FIVE PAGES

1. 5 Literary Devices are Mandatory. You must use your chosen literary devices (a list of 50 lit. devices was given at the beginning of the semester) to develop and support your identified main theme (4 approved themes were given in class)
2. A minimum of 4 sources cited in the body of your paper (The New York Times Article “Love Notes Drenched in Moonlight…” can be used). NO internet sources (ex: Shmoop, SparkNotes, Google, etc.). Electronic databases are permissible (MEL.org).
3. This is a literary analysis, not a book report
4. Double Spaced.
5. 12 pt. font, Times New Roman.
6. 1" Margins
7. Use spell check and grammar check.
8. MLA Format (there will be a class lesson on how to do this)
9. You must make a five minute, minimum, presentation on your essay.

\*\*YOU HAVE TO DRESS UP. CHOICE OF POWER POINT, PREZI, OR POSTER BOARD

1. Do not use “I” or contractions in your paper.
2. Go to tutoring if you need help with your paper. I also stay after school on Tuesdays—make an appointment.
3. Plan ahead…you will not be permitted to e-mail me your paper or go to the media center to print it out.

**Plagiarism** is defined, by Black’s Law Dictionary, as “the act or an instance of copying or stealing another’s word or ideas and attributing them as one’s own. Plagiarism is also (Plagiarism.com):

* + - 1. When the writer takes the time to paraphrase most of the paper from other sources and make it all fit together, instead of spending the same effort on original work.
  1. Although the writer has retained the essential content of the source, he or she has altered the paper's appearance slightly by changing key words and phrases.
  2. The writer tries to disguise plagiarism by copying from several different sources, tweaking the sentences to make them fit together while retaining most of the original phrasing.

**You will earn a grade of “0” if you are found to have plagiarized ANY part of your paper. Even if it is one sentence! A way to avoid this is by citing your paper the correct way.**

**How to Format Your Literary Analysis Essay**

Introduction:

* Paragraph 1: Author’s background information (relate back to the book) AND a short summary of the book (don’t give away any major details that will be revealed later in the paper. Basically, no spoiler alerts). You may cite an outside source in your first paragraph as long as it relates to what you are presenting. If you chose to open with a quote as an attention grabber, that doesn’t count as one of your 4 sources.
* Paragraph 2: (Thesis paragraph). This is where you tell the reader your THEME and which literary devices you will be using in order to prove the theme. Remember that you need a minimum of 5 lit. devices to focus on. Don’t just list the devices—make it read cohesively. Lead in with your chosen theme and tie it up at the end (see sample provided). No quotes should be used in the second paragraph.

Body Paragraphs:

* Follow the standard CEEEE format that you used for your SAT essay in class. Each literary device needs a MINIMUM of one body paragraph.
  + Claim: Name what literary device is going to be proved and WHY it is used. The second part of the claim is very important. Remember that a quote can’t be in a claim.
  + Evidence: Give an example from *The Great Gatsby* or one of your outside sources. Quotes can’t stand alone (they need to be introduced) and they need to be in MLA format. More class instruction for this will follow. The evidence should not be longer than two sentences.
  + Explanation: This will be the longest part of the paragraph. You need to explain WHY/HOW the evidence proves the claim. Remember to relate your claim back to the theme chosen. Remember that a quote can’t be in the explanation.
  + Evidence (You may want to make a new paragraph to start this evidence. If you do, make sure you have a lead in transition sentence that does not have a quote in it. Quotes should not start a paragraph): Give a different example from *The Great Gatsby* or one of your outside sources. This evidence should still support the original claim made. No new claims should be introduced in the paragraph. \*\*At least one piece of evidence per claim must be from *The Great Gatsby* book.
  + Explanation: Again, show WHY/HOW the evidence proves the claim. You do not need a final concluding sentence for each body paragraph.

Conclusion:

* This is where you want to wrap up your paper by summarizing the main points used. You want to leave your reader with something to think about and ALWAYS TIE IT BACK TO THE THEME. Many students choose to pose a question in the intro and answer it in the conclusion.

Other important tips:

* Use transitions between each body paragraph. Avoid using simple language like first, next, last, and in conclusion.
* Be sure to write about your literary devices in the order that they appear in the thesis paragraph(s).
* Don’t use “I” “we” “our”---keep yourself out of the writing—this is written in an objective tone.
* The four required sources need to include: *The Great Gatsby* book, *The Great Gatsby* Literature Guide, *The New York Times* article “Love Notes Drenched in Moonlight…”, and one outside source you find yourself (taken from an electronic database). If you choose to use a quote in your intro paragraph as an attention grabber, that doesn’t count as one of the 4 sources.
* Avoid looking for help online. That leads to disaster where you are tempted to put something in your paper that you didn’t write.
* Write in the PRESENT TENSE
* This is not a summary! Remember that I already read the book, so don’t go into long explanations giving un-needed info. Be concise and only write the most compelling evidence.

**Student sample…PART OF intro paragraph (how to give a summary)**

…*The Great Gatsby* is written during the Jazz Age, with its main character as Jay Gatsby. He takes full advantage of the roaring 20’s by throwing huge parties filled with music, dancing, and alcohol despite the prohibition laws. Many have suspicions as to why he throws these parties yet never attends them,...

**Student Sample (Thesis paragraph—remember your minimum is five lit. devices. Theme isn’t included in the 5 since it’s what you’ll be referring back to for the entire paper.)**

The main **theme** throughout Fitzgerald’s novel is that there are limitations to the American Dream. This can be seen in Fitzgerald’s **indirect characterization** of Henry Gatz, who despite having lost his son and being the poorest character, in the end, is the happiest and proudest. This is not to say that only the poor are happy in American society because the **setting** of the Valley of Ashes represents failure. This failure is the result of the social barriers that are placed on individuals in both poor and rich classes. Barriers are evident through the **symbols** of East and West Egg. Fitzgerald shows that success is not limited by the determination of an individual, rather by the social barriers placed on that person. As the **protagonist**, Gatsby is unable to break free from those social barriers, and fails in the end because his dream of having what the **antagonist** has, although limitless, proves to be impossible. Fitzgerald wants to show that in a time that is said to have had limitless possibilities, people are still limited by society and reality.

**Student sample…. (body paragraph using an outside source. Follows the CEE format).**

The characters not only limit each other but also limit themselves, which can be evidenced through the use of irony. This limitation can be seen in Daisy’s decision in the climax of the story. As Gatsby urges Daisy to tell Tom she never loved him, Daisy is attacked with the reality of the man who calls himself Gatsby and is seen “drawing further and further into herself” when decision time is upon her (Fitzgerald 134). For Daisy, her social status is more important than happiness. Daisy knows she made the mistake of marrying Tom, yet when she has a chance to have something better and be happy, she deliberately chooses to stay with Tom because of his social status. Ironically, Daisy ultimately limits her own dream by choosing to place society before her own happiness.

Works Cited

Bowers, Kristen. *The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald: Literature Guide*. San Dimas, Calif.:

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Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. New York: Scribner, 2004. Print.

Gillespie, Nick. "The Great Gatsby's Creative Destruction: Whether the New Movie Succeeds,

Fitzgerald's Masterpiece Still Speaks to America." *Reason* Apr. 2013: 48.*Academic OneFile*. Web. 19 Apr. 2015.

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*Literature* 43.3 (2013): n. pag. *Academic OneFile*. Web. 19 Apr. 2015.

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