

Essay 1 Literary Analysis

Assignment: in an essay of between 1000 and 1500 words, write an original analysis of one of the texts listed below from our assignment sequence. For instance, you may explore a theme (such as “loss in Dos Passos” or “morality in Ellison”), a pattern of imagery (such as “images of antiquity in HD”), an element of prosody (such as “broken rhythms in Eliot”), style (such as “narrative compression in Hemingway”) or any other notable literary characteristic of the work associated with such things as character, voice, scene, setting, symbol, language, plot, or technique. Focus your argument, closely read your chosen text, and thoroughly discuss the significance of the literary element under discussion. Back up your analysis with relevant quotes from the text. The goal here is for you to teach your reader something about the text you are writing about it.

Your essay must contain an original analysis. By original I mean that this essay must be comprised wholly of your own individual words and ideas, not someone else’s. Feel free to consult your class notes but do not consult or cite outside sources such as websites or critical books or essays. (Turnitin will verify whether or not the words and ideas in your essay are your own.) I want to know what *you* think about and what you can find in the work you are analyzing.

Write about one of the following:

- London, “To Build a Fire”
- Toomer, “Blood-Burning Moon”
- Hemingway, “The Killers”
- Frost, “The Death of the Hired Man” or “Mending Wall”
- Stevens, “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird” or “The Emperor of Ice Cream”
- Williams, “The Red Wheelbarrow” or “From *Asphodel*”
- Dos Passos, *The 42nd Parallel*
- Pound, any one of his poems in the Penguin Anthology
- HD, any one of her poems in the Penguin Anthology
- Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” or one or more of the parts of “The Waste Land”
- Ellison, *The Invisible Man*
- Miller, *Death of a Salesman*
- Ginsberg, any one of the poems in *Howl and Other Poems*

Format:

- Include the following in the upper left-hand side of the first page: your name; a title for your paper; the number of words in your paper; the name, number and time of your class; and your professor’s name.
- Length: 1000 words minimum; 1500 words maximum.
- Your essay must be written in Standard American English, making use of proper grammar, diction, spelling, and style.
- Number each page. Center page numbers at the bottom of each page.
- Cite your quotes using MLA parenthetical citation style: i.e. (Faulkner 120).
- Type your essay with double spacing and 1” margins; use 12 pt. Times New Roman font and left justify your body paragraphs.
- You do not need to include a works cited page with this assignment.
- **You must upload a file containing a properly formatted draft of your paper to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) to receive a grade. Your paper will be graded and commented on in [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com).**