

Purpose and Instructions for Literary Analysis Papers

Purpose:

The purpose for these papers is to introduce and practice the art/science of literary analysis that will be needed in other courses. They will also provide students with the opportunity to critically read literature.

Instructions:

Read the selected work carefully. While reading the work identify the main proposition (claim) and its type, other minor claims (if any), the support (identifying its type: ethos, pathos, logos), and if possible the assumptions (warrants) that the author is making.

In a two-page paper, write down the claim, support, and warrants that you found. Next, identify the weaknesses in the claim, support or warrant. Ask yourself, "How could I prove this argument to be false?" And finally, identify the strengths of the argument, "What makes this argument strong? Why does it convince me?"

I'm not necessarily looking for length. I want to see that you have an in depth understanding of what the main point of the story is and how it was constructed. The more effective you are at analyzing, the better you will be at writing your own arguments.

The paper will be written in paragraph format-not listing.

(Just as any other papers in this class, these assignments should be typed, double-spaced, 12pt standard font, and 1" margins.)