

Outline for Major Literary Analysis

Title of selected work:

(Italicize novels; use quotation marks for plays, epic poems, and short stories)

I. Introduction

- a. **Hook:** Briefly state a notable fact or two about the time period from whence your work came or a different creative introduction of your choice.
- b. **State the author's name and name of text.** Connect this to your hook. Transitional phrases help to do this. Two examples are as follows:
 - i. One such example is John Smith's Crazy Student, which captures the spirit of the ___ literary period.
 - ii. A notable work from this period is Mary Smith's "Ontario Jags," a thorough exploration of American middle class social milieu during the Age of Reason, i.e., the 18th century.
- c. **Importance** - State the historical significance of this piece of literature and the author's intent in creating this piece of literature (Note: this would be an excellent place to add one of your outside sources).
- d. **Create thesis statement** - a claim that explains how language and style enhance the author's overall message.

II. Body

- a. (Trans. phrase¹)**Topic sentence** (create this sentence by using one element or assertion from your thesis statement)
- b. **Relevance from the story** – quote or paraphrase that illustrates your topic sentence
- c. **Analysis - Explanation of WHY** (for what reason or purpose) **or HOW** (by what means; in what way) textual evidence provides deeper meaning/support for your thesis
- d. **Support from outside source(s) from your previous research** – how a criticism or critique from an outside article further supports your argument for this point.

III. Body

- a. (Trans. phrase²)**Topic sentence** (create this sentence by using a different element or assertion from your thesis statement)
- b. **Relevance from the story** – quote or paraphrase that illustrates your topic sentence
- c. **Analysis - Explanation of WHY** (for what reason or purpose) **or HOW** (by what means; in what way) textual evidence provides deeper meaning/support for your thesis
- d. **Support from outside source(s) from your previous research** – how a criticism or critique from an outside article further supports your argument for this point.

¹ Such as "To begin with," or "To set the stage"

² Such as "To begin with," or "To set the stage"

IV. **Body**

- a. (Trans. phrase³) **Topic sentence** (create this sentence by using a final element or assertion from your thesis statement)
- b. **Relevance from the story** – quote or paraphrase that illustrates your topic sentence
- c. **Analysis - Explanation of WHY** (for what reason or purpose) **or HOW** (by what means; in what way) textual evidence provides deeper meaning/support for your thesis
- d. **Support from outside source(s) from your previous research** – how a criticism or critique from an outside article further supports your argument for this point.

I. **Conclusion**

- a. (Trans. phrase⁴)
- b. **Restate the thesis** - reiterate the paper's thesis and sum up the message produced by the theme of the book.
- c. **Influence** – Explain how the overall message of the work is influential.

³ Such as “Moreover,” “Furthermore,” and “In addition”

⁴ Such as “In full light,” “In brief,” “To let fall the curtain” (use this latter one ONLY with plays)