



How to Write a Literature Essay

Literature Essay Overview



Structure of the Essay

Brief **introduction** which addresses the focus of the question and gives an overview of what you will mention. Or discuss the significance/importance of the text.

Main body: 3 paragraphs

Brief **conclusion**: what have you shown about the focus in the question? What does the writer want us to understand? What have you shown in terms of the themes / big ideas? Is there a message? What is the overall impact on the reader/audience?

Main Body Checklist



Relevant **point**:

What is shown in terms of the question? How are you responding to the question? Think about what you included in your introduction – what are you trying to prove?

Embed and introduce the **evidence or quotation**

Explain the quotation in terms of your point and the question. What does the quotation show?

Use **keywords** from the question and your own point throughout

Analyse a **technique** that has been used – why has it been used? What is the effect? How does this reinforce your **point** or link to the **question**? What does it reveal about **characters/action/relationships/setting/themes**?

Analyse the language used and discuss the connotations. Why has this word been used? What is the effect? How does this reinforce your **point** or link to the **question**? What does it reveal about **characters/action/relationships/setting/themes**?

Include **multiple interpretations** of the language choices – how many connotations can you comment on?

Layer your analysis of a quotation - how many aspects of it can you analyse?

Discuss the **writer's intention** as a way of interpreting meaning and developing analysis– use verbs

Show that you understand the text by linking your analysis and interpretation to the **themes and big ideas**

Link to **context** if relevant

Discuss the effect on the **reader/audience**

Prove how your point/idea/quotation is relevant by returning to the **keywords in the question**

Make sure your explanation, analysis and interpretations are **relevant to the quotation** you used

Use a range of **evidence** throughout your essay





How to Write a Literature Essay

How to write a 3 sentence introduction

Guiding questions to help you develop your 3 sentence introduction:

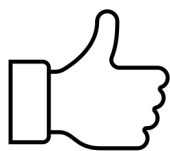
- What is the text about?
- What big ideas does it explore?
- How does the writer feel about the topic?
- Is the context significant?
- What do you believe in terms of the question? How do you respond to the question?
- What does the text/writer do - warns, critiques, subverts, challenges etc
- How is this done?

Success criteria:

- Writer's name
- Keyword from the question
- Your opinion / idea / viewpoint / argument
- Verb to show the writer's message, intention or purpose.

Verbs to show the writer's intention / purpose:

- Warns
- Critiques
- Subverts
- Reveals
- Illustrates
- Challenges
- Questions
- Explores
- Attacks
- Deconstructs
- Interrogates
- Commemorates



Sentence 1: What is the text about?

Sentence 2: What does the text/writer do?

Sentence 3: How is this done (in response to the question)? Why?

How to write a 3 sentence conclusion

Guiding questions to help you develop your 3 sentence conclusion:

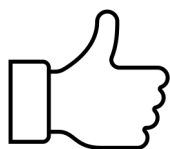
- What have you proven in terms of the question?
- How significant is this text? Why?
- What can we learn from this?
- Has the writer successfully achieved their purpose?
- Is the text and its message still relevant today?

Success criteria:

- Writer's name
- Keyword from the question
- Message for the reader / overall effect on the reader / audience
- Significance of this text

Words to summarise and conclude:

- On the whole
- Overall
- Ultimately
- Finally
- In conclusion



Sentence 1: What does the writer do?

Sentence 2: How do they do it?

Sentence 3: What is the effect on the reader / audience?

