

# Literary Analysis Essay Template



## Introduction

- Start the introduction with a hook that pulls the reader in and creates interest in the text.
- Provide background information that identifies the author, the title, and the basic context the reader needs.
- Explain the relevance of the literary work or the specific element you plan to analyze.
- End the introduction with a thesis statement that presents a clear, arguable interpretation supported by evidence from the text.



## Body Paragraph 1

- Open the paragraph with a topic sentence that states the first main idea supporting the thesis.
- Present textual evidence such as quotations or specific moments that illustrate this idea.
- Analyze the evidence by explaining how it supports the interpretation made in the topic sentence.
- Conclude the paragraph with a sentence that reinforces the connection between the idea and the thesis.



## Body Paragraph 2

- Introduce a second supporting idea with a strong topic sentence.
- Use direct evidence from the text to show how the author develops this idea.
- Interpret the evidence by discussing its meaning, implications, or literary effect.
- Finish the paragraph by linking the discussion back to the essay's central argument.



## Body Paragraph 3

- Begin with a topic sentence that advances a third point related to the thesis.
- Include relevant textual evidence that illustrates the point clearly.
- Discuss the evidence by breaking down language, structure, or thematic significance.
- Wrap up the paragraph by showing how this point strengthens the overall analysis.



## Conclusion

- Restate the thesis in fresh wording to reinforce the essay's central interpretation.
- Summarize the main points from the body paragraphs without introducing new evidence.
- Reflect on the broader significance of the interpretation and what it reveals about the literary work.
- Close the essay with a final thought that leaves the reader with a sense of insight or clarity.