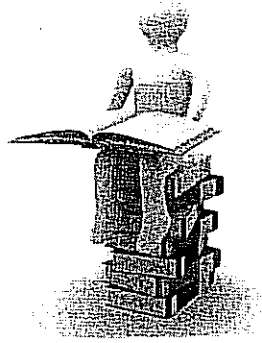


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## ENG4U1 Independent Study Unit: The Literary Research Essay



*This is an independent study of a novel that will culminate in a Literary Research Essay.*

### Your Independent Task:

- The *independent* study unit for this course requires students to **select, read and analyze a novel with "literary merit"** (a work of literary fiction that possesses cultural value, literary elements, rhetorical devices, and literary criticism has been written about it). Your novel choice must be a minimum of 200 pages in length, and must be at a reading level that is challenging enough for a grade twelve, university-bound student. Novel choices are not limited to "classic works" and can be contemporary pieces of writing that explore modern language and current subject matter. However, in order to narrow your search, you **MUST** ensure that the novel you choose has been critiqued and analyzed by other literary critics (**ASK:** Have people written academic reviews and literary journals that examine your chosen novel?), because you will have to conduct extensive **RESEARCH** in order to successfully complete your independent study. If you cannot find an adequate amount of secondary writings/critiques about your novel, then you will undoubtedly struggle with the completion of your Literary Research Essay. Consequently, it is imperative that you do a bit of research prior to choosing your novel in order to avoid running into difficulties later on. To aid in the appropriate selection of a novel, it is required that all ISU novel choices are approved by your teacher before you begin your reading and your research.
- Once you have selected your novel, and begin reading, it is important that you begin to focus on the most significant literary elements used in the novel (**ASK:** What literary elements do I notice right away? - character development, symbolism, imagery, situational irony, foreshadowing, setting, etc.) and the themes that become apparent as you explore the content (**ASK:** What are the main messages in my novel? - the destructiveness of revenge, the power of young love, or the human ability to survive the unspeakable, etc.). **YOUR MAIN OBJECTIVE** is to identify and examine how **ONE** literary element reinforces **ONE** key theme in the novel, either effectively or ineffectively. As you read, you should be making point form notes about key literary elements and their connection to central themes, because these can be used as **YOUR OWN RESEARCH NOTES**.

- After completing your novel, you will begin writing your **Literary Research Essay**. Please note that it is an expectation that this is a **FORMAL** literary essay, therefore, in your writing you will maintain a formal tone and you **WILL NOT** use any personal pronouns (I, me, you) or colloquial language.
- For this Literary Research Essay, you will be required to apply your own literary critique using direct proof from the novel in order to support your thesis statement (direct quotations from your novel are also required, in addition to supporting examples from secondary sources - i.e. academic journals and scholarly reviews) to add depth to your writing. It is **IMPERATIVE** that secondary research be included in this essay because you are being graded on your ability to complete research and thoughtfully integrate it in your essay in order to support and enhance your own thesis statement. **A MINIMUM OF 4 CREDIBLE, PUBLISHED SOURCES ARE REQUIRED FOR YOUR ESSAY.**
- The Literary Research Essay must be **1200-1500 words in length**. However, due to the length of the essay, you are not limited to a 5 paragraph essay structure (introduction, 3 body paragraphs and a conclusion). If you would like to add additional body paragraphs to your essay, you can. Your final copy of this essay must be typed in a legible, 12 point font, and double-spaced, otherwise your essay will not be accepted until these revisions have been made. You must also ensure that you are properly citing your secondary sources using correct MLA format (a Works Cited page must be submitted with the final copy of your essay).
- You will also be required to complete an annotated bibliography and submit a rough draft for your Literary Research Essay. This rough draft must be carefully edited by 2 peer editors (but do not allow this to substitute for your own self-editing). This rough draft and two completed peer editing sheets (to be provided) must be handed in with the good copy of your essay on the specified due date.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** There will be several teacher/student conferences held throughout the completion of your ISU, so ensure that you keep track of due dates and your own progress. Responsibility, organization and self-regulation are key learning skills that will be assessed throughout your ISU completion.

- Sample Thesis Statements:

In the haunting novel, *Wuthering Heights*, Emily Bronte uses *symbolism* effectively in order to shape and reinforce *the theme of the destructiveness of love that never changes*.

In the thought-provoking novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Oscar Wilde uses *imagery* effectively in order to shape and reinforce *the theme of the supremacy of youth and beauty*.

In the \_\_\_\_\_ *insert adjective* \_\_\_\_\_ novel, \_\_\_\_\_ *insert your novel title* \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ *insert author's first and last name* \_\_\_\_\_ uses \_\_\_\_\_ *insert literary element* \_\_\_\_\_ effectively/ineffectively in order to shape and reinforce the theme of \_\_\_\_\_ *insert chosen theme* \_\_\_\_\_.

# RESEARCH-BASED LITERARY ESSAY RUBRIC

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORIES	0 – 49 %	50 – 59% LEVEL 1	60 – 69% LEVEL 2	70 – 79% LEVEL 3	80 - 100% LEVEL 4
<b>KNOWLEDGE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• depth and breadth of essay content</li> <li>• extrapolation of textual proof</li> <li>• accuracy and relevancy of proof</li> <li>• use of quotations</li> </ul>	Below min in most areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>limited degree</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>some degree</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>considerable degree</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>high degree</i></li> </ul>
<b>THINKING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of appropriate introduction, body, and conclusion</li> <li>• explicit thesis</li> <li>• (3) clear argument statements; clear links to the thesis</li> <li>• sophistication of thought and insight</li> <li>• appropriate use of secondary sources (research)</li> <li>• evidence of process</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>limited degree</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>some degree</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>considerable degree</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>high degree</i></li> </ul>
<b>COMMUNICATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clarity of articulation of thoughts</li> <li>• unity and cohesion of thoughts</li> <li>• voice appropriate, verb tense</li> <li>• diction: level, accuracy</li> <li>• spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc.</li> <li>• appropriate editing techniques to polish writing</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>limited degree</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>some degree</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>considerable degree</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>high degree</i></li> </ul>
<b>APPLICATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• appropriate essay writing techniques</li> <li>• conventions of essay format</li> <li>• appropriate citation of sources</li> <li>• logical progression of linked thoughts</li> <li>• transitions between points in arguments</li> <li>• focus within arguments &amp; on thesis</li> <li>• appropriate use of research</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>limited degree</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>some degree</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>considerable degree</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>high degree</i></li> </ul>

## Steps to Completion:

1. Choose a novel with "literary merit" and an appropriate background of academic critique from literary critics. Remember, as you read, take notes in order to collect your own analytical evidence (direct examples and specific quotations that you will later use in your essay) and track your progress.

**Due Date #1:** Your novel must be read by...\_\_\_\_\_

2. Choose **ONE** literary element from the novel and **ONE** theme that this literary element shapes and reinforces either effectively *OR* ineffectively (this will be the topic for your essay and will therefore inform your thesis statement).

**Due Date #2:** Your thesis must be written by...\_\_\_\_\_

3. You must research secondary information (literary critiques from a credible publication, detailed academic reviews, published journals) from a **MINIMUM** of **4 SOURCES** in order to prove your thesis statement. Remember that **ALL** secondary research, no matter how small the idea, **MUST** be properly cited using correct MLA format in your essay (MLA format will be reviewed in class). Students will be required to submit an **annotated bibliography** for these **4** academic courses before they begin writing their essay (this is a bibliography that includes a rationale as to how you plan on using each source, and its information, within your essay).

**Due Date #3:** Your annotated bibliography must be written by...\_\_\_\_\_

4. Complete a **rough copy** of your Literary Research Essay. Be sure that you edit and revise your own writing as well as having 2 peer editors provide you with constructive feedback.

**Due Date #4:** Your edited rough copy must be completed by...\_\_\_\_\_

5. The **final copy** of the essay (1200-1500 words, typed, 12 point font, double-spaced, 1" margins with a creative title) must be polished and carefully edited prior to submission.

**Due Date #5:** Your final copy must be submitted by...\_\_\_\_\_

**What you MUST submit with your final copy (and in the following order):**

1. Research-Based Literary Essay Rubric
2. Essay Good Copy
3. Works Cited Page
4. Edited Rough Copy of your Essay
5. Peer Editing Sheets (X2)
6. A Printed Copy of ONE of your Secondary Sources