

For this assignment, you will write a detailed outline for two separate short essays: one **analyzing a significant scene** in the novel, the other **analyzing a significant passage**. Once you've completed both outlines, you will choose one and then write and revise the paper.

Passage analysis

1. Choose a passage to analyze.

See back of page for some suggestions. Keep the passage length reasonable: **between 3 to 6 sentences**.

2. Read the passage several times, taking note of:

- the context of the passage (what's happening? where is Paul? etc.)
- meaningful images
- connotations of word choices
- sentence structure (patterns, contrasts, etc.)
- other literary devices Remarque uses in the passage (metaphors, ironies, contrasts, etc.)
- connections to themes & ideas in the novel as a whole

➔ Do the kind of work you do when **annotating** a passage, noticing every detail, pattern and nuance in the passage.

3. Develop a topic sentence that makes an analytical claim about the passage.

Look at all that you have noticed about this passage and determine what is significant about it. Then develop an analytical claim that answers a question such as:

- What is Remarque saying about war (or soldiers, or trench warfare, or the corruption of power, or premature aging, etc., etc.) in this passage?
- How does Remarque's word choices and sentence structure convey the chaos of war?

4. Write an outline for a short analytical essay that supports your topic sentence.

At the top of the outline, **type** (single spaced) **the entire passage and page number**. Your outline should look something like this →

"A word of command has made these silent figures our enemies; a word of command might transform them into our friends..." (193).

I. topic sentence

- A. evidence #1 (image, phrase, word, pattern, etc)
 - 1. analysis notes about evidence #1
 - 2. analysis notes about evidence #1
- B. evidence #2
 - 1. analysis notes about evidence #2
- C. evidence #3
 - 1. analysis notes about evidence #3
- D. evidence #4 (if necessary)
 - 1. analysis notes about evidence #4

Scene analysis

1. Choose a scene to analyze. See suggested scenes on back of this sheet.

2. Read the scene several times, taking note of:

- key events in the scene
- meaningful passages
- the literary devices Remarque uses in the scene (imagery, metaphors, ironies, contrasts, etc.)
- Remarque's language (sentence structure, verb choices, diction, etc.)
- connections to themes & ideas in the novel as a whole

3. Develop a topic sentence that makes an analytical claim about the scene.

Depending on the scene, you might be answering a broad question like:

- What does this scene illustrate about how war changes men?*
- What is Remarque saying about war in this scene?*
- What is the author suggesting about human nature in this scene?*

OR, you might be answering a more specific question like:

- How does Remarque's word choices and sentence structure convey the chaos of this battle scene?*
- What do Paul's actions suggest about his state of mind in this scene and what does it say about the effect of war on soldiers?*

4. Write an outline for a short analytical essay that supports your topic sentence.

In your outline include: your analytical topic sentence, 3 or 4 pieces of evidence from the scene (quotes and/or examples), and brief analysis notes about each piece of evidence (i.e. how evidence supports claim).

I prefer that your outline be **typed**, but you may write it by hand as long as it's neat (!!) and looks something like this →

I. topic sentence

- A. evidence #1 (quote or example)
 - 1. analysis notes about evidence #1
 - 2. more analysis about ev. #1
- B. evidence #2
 - 1. analysis notes about ev. #2
- C. evidence #3
 - 1. analysis notes about ev. #3
- D. evidence #4 (if necessary)
 - 1. analysis notes about ev. #4

Process / Due Dates

1. Passage analysis OUTLINE due _____

2. Scene analysis OUTLINE due _____

3. Choose **one** of your outlines and write the essay. **ROUGH DRAFT** due by _____ to **turnitin.com**
(Further details about submitting to a NEW turnitin.com account will be given in class.)

- Your rough draft should include all of the components of an analytical paper. (See below.)
- If you're writing the passage analysis essay, include the passage (single spaced) at the top of your paper.
- Your rough draft must be in **MLA format**.
- **If you want feedback from me before** the rough draft due date, give me (or email me) a typed copy of your paper and I will meet with you **the next day** during lunch or after school.

4. **PEER REVIEW** due by/before _____ on **turnitin.com**.

- You will get (and give) online peer feedback from (and to) 2 or 3 classmates. (Details to come.)
- **If you want feedback from me** as you're revising, give me (or email me) a typed copy of your paper and I will meet with you **the next day** during lunch or after school (or during tutorial or class time in some cases).

5. **Revise and write a final draft. FINAL DRAFT** due by _____ to **turnitin.com**.

- You do not need to turn in a paper copy of this essay to me, unless you're meeting with me for a conference.
- Your essay will be evaluated with the 6-point scale "short literary analysis" rubric.

Components of a short analytical essay

Topic Sentence: title/author + subject + claim

Evidence: context + speaker + quote + (page)

Analysis: explain & analyze evidence + connect to claim

→ **Transition** → **Evidence/Analysis** → etc... [A paper like this should have **3 to 4 pieces of evidence**.]

Clincher: more complex understanding of original claim; implications

Suggested passages for PASSAGE analysis:

Note: I've included here only a part of the passage. For your outline/essay, you may include more of the passage.

However, keep the passage length reasonable: between three and six sentences.

the **forward** to the novel

the **final paragraph** (on the page after chapter 12)

"Iron Youth! We are none of us more than twenty years old. But young? That is long ago. We are old folk" (18).

"Kantorek would say that we stood on the threshold of life. And so it would seem. We had as yet taken no root..." (20).

"My limbs move supplely, I feel my joints strong, I breathe the air deeply. The night lives, I live. I feel a hunger, greater than comes from the belly alone..." (33).

"To me the front is a mysterious whirlpool...To no man does the earth mean so much as to the soldier..." (55).

"The war has ruined us for everything..." (87).

"No soldier outlives a thousand chances. But every soldier believes in Chance and trusts his luck" (101).

"We have become wild beasts...Death is hunting us down" (113).

"The girl on the poster is a wonder to us..." (141).

"I breathe deeply and say over to myself: 'You are at home, you are at home.' But...there is a distance, a veil between us" (160).

"I stand there dumb. As before a judge...Words, Words, Words - they do not reach me..." (173).

"A word of command has made these silent figures our enemies; a word of command might transform them into our friends" (193).

"They are more to me than life...they are more than motherliness and more than fear: they are the strongest, most comforting thing there is anywhere: they are the voices of my comrades" (212).

"I have killed the printer, Gerard Duval. I must be a printer, I think confusedly, be a printer, printer - " (225).

"After all, war is war" (229).

"A man cannot realize that above such shattered bodies there are still human faces in which life goes its daily round. And this is only one hospital..." (263).

"It is as though we were coins of different provinces; and now we are melted down, and all bear the same stamp" (272).

"All is as usual. Only the Militiaman Stanislaus Katczinsky had died" (291).

Suggested scenes for SCENE analysis:

-army training [p. 21...]

-Kemmerich's death [p. 27...]

-the cemetery scene [p. 65...]

-the goose feast [p. 91...]

-any combat scene

-Paul on leave [p. 151...]

-training camp next to the Russian prison camp [p. 187...]

-in the shell hole with the Frenchman [p. 212...]

-the Catholic hospital [p. 250...]

-Katzinsky's injury [p. 286...]

-the end of the novel [p. 293 - end]

-another scene that you can make an analytical claim about

These are only suggestions! You may choose any passage from the book about which you have a claim.