

Holden Analytical Paragraph

We (Ms. Hill and Ms. Hirsch) were pleased to read the many keen observations you made about Holden in your quote analyses. Most of you found several examples supporting a given – and often original – observation.

NOW is your chance to tie these separate examples together. For your final *Catcher* assignment, you will write an analytical paragraph in which you **express a key insight about Holden, in your topic sentence**, supporting it with **3-5 solid pieces of evidence** in the body of the paragraph. End with a **clincher/conclusion sentence** that words your thesis in a different, more expansive way.

Whereas the goal of the quote analyses was to help you figure out what you *think*, the goal of this assignment is to **practice crafting your writing**, using strong vocabulary and cumulative sentences. In other words, the quality of writing should be much better in this assignment. It will be graded more rigorously than the quote analyses were.

As you draft and revise, be sure to **combine short sentences** by using the different clauses and phrases. Though sentence length may increase, the overall length of your essay is likely to decrease, as you eliminate wordiness and redundancy.

Read the back of this sheet for details about components in a paragraph, how this paper will be evaluated, and how to submit your paper to turnitin.com

A **draft of your essay (in MLA format!)** is due to turnitin.com before 11:59 p.m. on _____

Important note! If you want to conference with me about your paper, email me a copy of your essay and I will conference with you the next school day either at lunch or after school. I will conference with people on a “first come, first served” basis. Obviously, the sooner you come see me, the more likely I’ll be available to give you detailed feedback.

The **final draft of your essay** is due to turnitin.com before 11:59 p.m. on _____

- Your final draft will be worth **75 points possible**.

Information on submitting an essay to turnitin.com

- Go to turnitin.com
- Enroll in my tii.com class by logging into your existing account (OR open an account by going to "New User") and then...
 - 1) click on "enroll in a class" on the left side of the screen
 - 2) enter the class/section ID and enrollment password for your class
Class ID = _____ password = _____
- To submit a paper, click on "submit" next to the assignment, then upload (default) OR cut & paste.
 - You may upload files that are: MS Word, WordPerfect, RTF, PDF, PostScript, HTML, and plain text (.txt)
 - Follow instructions to cut and paste if you’re using a different file type

Grade based on:

- originality & clarity of thesis
- quality of evidence; depth of analysis
- transitions between examples & overall flow
- strong vocabulary and use of cumulative sentences
- evidence of implementing peer feedback/marked improvement between drafts
- exact adherence to MLA format

Components of a Short Literary Analysis Essay

1. **Topic Sentence:** Introduce the main point of the essay: the subject and your claim about the subject.
2. **Context:** Set up the evidence by giving the context (who, what, when, where) of the passage or example that follows.
3. **Evidence:** Quotation, example, etc, with appropriate citation information. When citing textual evidence, embed the quotation into your analysis and use correct MLA.
4. **Analysis:** Thoroughly discuss each piece of evidence and explain how it supports the claim in your topic sentence. Your analysis should dig deep! (i.e. dissect the language, images, and/or events in the quotations, explain difficult phrasing, interpret images or actions, analyze connotations of word choice...)
5. **Repeat** steps 2-4, as necessary, with **transitions** between your evidence.
6. **Sum up with a “clincher”:** Close your essay with one or more sentences that wrap up the essay, giving it a sense of completion. Try to answer, “So what? Why is this important?”

Paragraph Structure:

topic sentence
lead in/context (of evidence)
evidence #1
analysis
transition
lead in/context
evidence #2
analysis
transition
lead in/context
evidence #3
analysis
clincher/conclusion