Critical Lens Essay Template

A critical lens essay uses a quotation to explore and analyze works of literature. The essay writer provides an interpretation of the quotation and then uses literary elements from two works of literature to support the interpretation. Use the organizer below to assist you in composing a critical lens essay using two literary works.

Introduction (Paragraph #1)

Copy the quotation. (1 sentence) In this section, copy the quotation and the author:

_________________________ once said/stated, “__________________________

(name the author)

(rewrite quotation using "quotation marks")

_____________________________________________________________________________

Own words. (2-3 sentences) In this section, explain in your own words what the quotation means.

This quotation means/suggests/implies...

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

Argument (2-3 sentences) (State whether this quote is valid or invalid.)

NOTE: Avoid using "I" -- instead, use the sentence below:

This quotation is true/valid (or untrue/invalid) because...

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

Tie it to two texts. (This is the THESIS statement.) (1-2 sentences)

In this section, write the titles, authors and genres of the works and explain how the interpretation relates to the literature.

The ________________________________, by ____________________

(genre: short story, novel, poem, play) (title of work) (author)

and the ________________________________ by ____________________

(genre: short story, novel, poem) (title of work) (author)

prove the interpretation because...

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________.
Topic sentence that should reflect critical lens statement and identify the novel you will be using as an example to agree or disagree with the critical lens.

The novel __________________ by __________________ supports/disproves the critical lens about ___________________________ (interpretation of quote) because _____________________________.

Supporting details/situations to prove your thesis:

The first example from the novel that proves the critical lens valid / invalid is _________________.

This example proves that the critical lens statement is true/false because _____________________________.

Write 2-3 sentences giving details from the text and your own analysis of the story. USE REFERENCES TO LITERARY ELEMENTS (SYMBOL, THEME, IMAGERY, CHARACTERIZATION, CONFLICT, etc) IN YOUR EXAMPLE*

In the story ____________________________________________________________

The author uses the literary elements of ___________________________________ when he/she

_________________________________________________________.

This effects the story because _________________________________________.

Sentence that concludes paragraph and connects to the next paragraph.

Ultimately, the novel __________________ by __________________ shows ___________________________ and proves the critical lens true/false.
1. Restate your position in regard to the critical lens:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

In conclusion, it is evident that the critical lens statement about____________________

________________________________________________________________________

__________________

_______________________________

__________________

is true/false.

2. Summarize your main points:

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

Main points from body paragraph 1:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Main points from body paragraph 2:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

3. Effectively close the essay with a clincher that refers to the authors, works, and main ideas (therefore, in essence, thus, in effect, nevertheless)

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Mrs. Burnash

Critical Lens Review

Title: ____________________________________________

Author: _________________________________________

Genre: __________________________________________

Main Characters:
______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________

Summary:
______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
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Theme:
______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________