A.L.I.S. Culminating Essay

“The best of a book is not the thought which it contains, but the thought which it suggests; just as the charm of music dwells not in the tones but in the echoes of our hearts.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes

1. The introduction consists of 1 paragraph.
   • Capture the reader’s interest. (An effective way to do this is to explain why you chose your thematic topic. Use personal anecdotes and vivid images. Allow your voice to emerge.)
   • Give background information about the theory as it relates to your text. Incorporate research. Define necessary terms.
   • State the thesis and projected plan in the last 1-2 sentences.

2. The body consists of 3 paragraphs.
   • Begin each paragraph with a topic sentence that states an idea related to the thesis. Organize your essay around ideas relating to your critical lens.
   • In the body of your essay, incorporate information from your primary and secondary sources (novel and critical theory information). Cite these sources parenthetically, using MLA format.
   • Develop your ideas fully. In each section, integrate quotations and textual details from sources. Analyze all examples, probing to the underlying ideas. Be sure to provide clear topic sentences and transitions to guide your reader.

3. The conclusion is a single paragraph that recalls the thesis and discusses the relevance and significance of the ideas that you have explored. Explain what you have learned about your novel and your critical theory. Put your own personal stamp on this paragraph. Explain how these books relate to your life and to America today. The last sentence must have impact.

4. You will be judged on the strength of your argument, the depth of your insight, the quality of literature you have chosen, and the power of your writing. You are expected to write a clear, interesting, and convincing essay. Voice and tone should be evident. Syntax should be varied and sophisticated. Figures of speech should appear. Mechanics should be flawless.

5. Type everything properly—MLA style. And don’t forget the Works Cited page! (You should have a total of 3 pages max (1” margins, double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 font, MLA heading, Last Name/pg. # at the top right of each page.)
Literary Analysis Essay: Outline

I. Attention Getter:__________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________

   A. Background, overview of critical lens: ________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________

   B. Thesis: __________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________

II. Main point of first paragraph:___________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________

   A. Quotes or examples to illustrate argument: ____________________________
   _____________________________________________________________

   B. Explanation of how quote/example demonstrates a facet of your thesis:
   _____________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________

   C. Quotes or examples to illustrate argument: ____________________________
   _____________________________________________________________

   D. Explanation of how quote/example demonstrates a facet of your thesis:
   _____________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________

   E. How does the previous paragraph relate to your thesis? __________________
   _____________________________________________________________

III. Main point of second paragraph:_________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________

   A. Quote or example to illustrate argument: ______________________________
   _____________________________________________________________

   B. Explanation of how quote/example demonstrates a facet of your thesis:
   _____________________________________________________________

   C. Quotes or examples to illustrate argument: ____________________________
   _____________________________________________________________

   D. Explanation of how quote/example demonstrate a facet of your thesis:
   _____________________________________________________________

   E. How does the previous paragraph relate to your thesis? ________________
IV. Main point of third paragraph: ____________________

_______________________________

F. Quote or example to illustrate argument: ________________

_______________________________

G. Explanation of how quote/example demonstrates a facet of your thesis:

_______________________________

_______________________________

H. Quotes or examples to illustrate argument: ________________

_______________________________

I. Explanation of how quote/example demonstrate a facet of your thesis:

_______________________________

_______________________________

J. How does the previous paragraph relate to your thesis? ________________

_______________________________

V. Conclusion: Application to Society—what do we learn about human nature, society, culture, history, or individuals from these texts? __________________

_______________________________

_______________________________

_______________________________

_______________________________

This outline will be due at the time of your scheduled conference. Plan to be five minutes early in case I am running ahead. My conference occurs _________________. Should I write this in my planner? I think so!

When is my paper due? ________________ I should turn in my brain_______, my out_______, my rou_______ draft, and my fin_______ draft. Should I use a folder with pockets? YES, FOR THE LOVE OF ALIS!