

Precision Essay
A Tale of Two Cities
close reading analysis

Directions: Please keep this direction sheet to help you complete each of the precision essays that you will write for the remainder of the novel. You will write a short essay (not more than one typed, 12 point font, double spaced page) examining a pre-selected passage for imagery that suggests a larger theme. Follow this outline – an example for all literary essays:

- I. Introduction
 - A. Hook sentence
 1. draw the reader in with a general statement about your direction.
 - B. Thesis
 1. subject (what you will discuss – that is, what motif) AND
 2. direction (how you will discuss it – that is, what theme is you motif illustrating)

- II. First idea
 - A. Topic sentence (same direction as a thesis but with a more specific subject)
 - B. Evidence (a quote, etc.)
 - C. Explain your evidence by telling the reader what it means in the immediate context (literal explanation) and then connecting this evidence to a larger, more significant idea (figurative, that is, a theme)

- III. Same as II, with a related idea

- IV. Conclusion – this will connect your ideas in the body paragraphs together, and then connect these to a larger idea (theme). Remember to keep moving in the direction of the thesis. Your introductory paragraph tells the reader what you will prove, your body paragraphs are your attempts to prove this, and your conclusion is the “closing argument,” or the “therefore” statement.

Guidelines:

- You must have 1” margins all the way around. Your heading should be single-spaced in the upper right corner. Include your name (then press “Enter”) and the DUE DATE. Press “Enter” once, then double-space as you begin your essay.
- No contractions.
- No personal pronouns.
- Be sure you know how to incorporate quotes. That means: never have a quote standing alone as a sentence. Always start the sentence with your own words, explaining something about context and speaker.
- Use specific language (stay away from “There are many...” and “In this quote....” Instead, use words like, “illustrates,” “It is evident...” etc.).
- Follow the outline example above. (You should have two body paragraphs, and intro and conclusion.)

No revisions will be permitted for these assignments.
Please see me in advance for assistance.