



Senior Research Paper

Task: Students will choose a piece of British literature from the approved *Senior Research Paper Book List*. Students will then choose to complete the paper following the thematic or social issue approach.

Thematic

Prompt: Create an argument that shows how the author's life, his/her time period, and use of literary elements develop the novel's primary theme.

Introduction (1-1.5 pages)

- Hook (Anecdote, real life connection, etc.)
- Segue into paper with introduction of author and basic premise of novel (in other words, a brief summary – no more than ½ page).
- Claim: Thesis that addresses historical context, author's life, and literary analysis of essay.

Section #1: Author's Life (2-3 pages) 2-3 sources – one of which is novel

How did the author's life influence events, characters and the message in the narrative?

Section #2: Historical and Social Context (2-3 pages) 2-3 sources

How are the major issues and historical events of the time period reflected in the novel's message?

Section #3: Literary Analysis (2-3 pages) 2-3 sources– one of which is novel

Choose at least 3 elements to highlight in the paper. How do these elements help the reader understand the overarching message of the work?

Some Examples: Symbolism, Archetypes, Figurative Language, Conflict/Resolution, Mood, Tone, Characterization, Allusion, etc.

Conclusion – (1-2 pages)

- Why is the author and his/her novel significant? Why does this book have literary merit?
- brief summary of the main points
- How does the author's message apply to the world today?

Social Issue

Prompt: Address a social, moral, or political issue discussed in the novel. Research the issue's significance in the novel's time period and other sectors of society throughout history, and develop an argument that takes a stance on the issue and proposes a solution.

Introduction (1-1.5 pages)

- Hook (Anecdote, real life connection, etc.)
- Segue into paper with introduction of author, basic premise of novel (in other words, a brief summary – no more than ½ page), and brief description of the social issue.
- Claim: Thesis that addresses a social issue in the novel and in history, that takes a stance on the issue, and proposes a solution.

Section #1: Issue in Literature (2-3 pages) novel as source

How does the novel address a social, moral, or political issue? Based on the central ideas developed in the novel, what is the author's message about this issue?

Section #2: Historical and Social Context (2-3 pages) 3-4 sources

Why is this social issue historically and universally relevant? Research how the issue impacted the time period of the novel as well as other sectors of society throughout history and today.

Section #3: Argument and Solution (2-3 pages) 3-4 reliable sources

Create an argument that takes a stance on the social, moral, or political issue presented in the novel, uses evidence from research to support the argument, and that addresses counterarguments. Then propose a solution to this issue using research to back up your proposal.

Conclusion- (1-2 pages) Why is the author and his/her novel significant? Why does this novel have literary merit? How does the issue apply to the world today? Why is it important for people to pay attention to this issue?