

Summer Reading/Writing Requirements
11th-12th grade

For each of the two books you read this summer, you will be composing a **persuasive essay** that is a literature analysis of the novel.

You should follow the **five paragraph essay format**, with the thesis statement coming at the end of the first paragraph.

***Thesis Statement:** A thesis statement is a sentence that explicitly identifies the purpose of the paper and/or previews its main ideas and arguments.)

It should include two criteria:

1. A limited topic that can be expanded on and proved
2. Includes the author's (that's you!) attitude or opinion

You may never write in 1st person (I, we, me) or 2nd person (you)!

There are many possibilities in choosing an essay topic, but remember, you must be presenting an argument that you will prove in your essay. You **must** include **specific examples and quotations** from the novel to support your points.

You may use any of the following or make up your own.

1. Do a **character analysis** of one of the major characters in the novel.
(Consider how he or she changed, what they learned, what they had to do in order to overcome the major conflict)
2. **Analyze** the major themes of the novel and explain why they are important, and how they work within the novel, and what the purpose of each is (what the author is trying to explain or prove; his message).
3. **Analyze** several of the major symbols in the play, and explain why they are important, and how they work within the novel, and what the purpose of each is (what the author is trying to explain or prove; his message).
4. **Analyze** how the novel mirrors the culture in which it was written.
Consider the political climate, the historical context, the society and people, and the setting. How was the novel influenced by the culture? What did it say about the culture?
5. **Compare and contrast** two of the major characters in the novel.