Name: Block: Date:

**The Purpose of a Literary Analysis:** A literary analysis is not merely a summary of a literary work. Instead, it is an argument about the work that expresses a writer’s personal perspective, interpretation, judgment, or critical evaluation of the work. This is accomplished by examining the literary devices, word choices, or writing structures the author uses within the work. The purpose of a literary analysis is to demonstrate why the author used specific ideas, word choices, or writing structures to convey his or her message.

**Outline Structure for Literary Analysis Essay**

**Note: Remember to use PRESENT TENSE & THIRD PERSON**

Catchy Title

Introduction (Use HATMAT)

A. Hook

B. Author (full name the first time mentioned)

C. Title **&** Genre

D. Main characters (include pertinent details about each relevant to your thesis)

E. A short summary (background information necessary to support your thesis)

F. Thesis - use this thesis statement stem: In the (genre) (title), (author’s last name) uses (three literary devices) to (illustrate, demonstrate, convey, etc.) (echo key words from the prompt).

\*\*NOTE: If you need help identifying literary devices, here is a great link: [Quick List of Literary Devices - with definitions and examples](http://literary-devices.com/) (http://literary-devices.com/).

I. Paragraph 2: First Body Paragraph -Topic sentence (What this paragraph will discuss; how it will prove your thesis.)

A. Context for the quote

1. Who says it?

2. What’s happening in the text when they say it?

B. Quote from the text (cited appropriately)

1. Analysis of the quote: How does it prove your thesis?

2. Analysis of the quote: How does it prove your thesis?

D. Context for the quote

1. Who says it?

2. What’s happening in the text when they say it?

E. Quote from the text (cited appropriately)

1. Analysis of the quote: How does it prove your thesis?

2. Analysis of the quote: How does it prove your thesis?

F. Closing sentence (wrap up the paragraph to effectively transition to the next paragraph)

II. Paragraph 3: Second Body Paragraph - Topic sentence (What this paragraph will discuss; how it will prove your thesis.)

A. Context for the quote

1. Who says it?

2. What’s happening in the text when they say it?

B. Quote from the text (cited appropriately)

1. Analysis of the quote: How does it prove your thesis?

2. Analysis of the quote: How does it prove your thesis?

D. Context for the quote

1. Who says it?

2. What’s happening in the text when they say it?

E. Quote from the text (cited appropriately)

1. Analysis of the quote: How does it prove your thesis?

2. Analysis of the quote: How does it prove your thesis?

F. Closing sentence (wrap up the paragraph to effectively transition to the next paragraph)

III. Paragraph 4: Third Body Paragraph - Topic sentence (What this paragraph will discuss; how it will prove your thesis.)

A. Context for the quote

1. Who says it?

2. What’s happening in the text when they say it?

B. Quote from the text (cited appropriately)

1. Analysis of the quote: How does it prove your thesis?

2. Analysis of the quote: How does it prove your thesis?

D. Context for the quote

1. Who says it?

2. What’s happening in the text when they say it?

E. Quote from the text (cited appropriately)

1. Analysis of the quote: How does it prove your thesis?

2. Analysis of the quote: How does it prove your thesis?

F. Closing sentence (wrap up the paragraph to effectively transition to the next paragraph)

Conclusion (You do not necessarily have to follow this order but include the following):

A. Summarize your argument.

B. Extend the argument.

C. Show why the text is important. (A relevant message to humankind.)