

Literary Analysis Essay Outline

I. Introduction

A. Hook: An attention-grabbing opening statement or question

B. Background information on the literary work and author

C. Thesis statement: A clear statement of the purpose of the essay and what it will cover

II. Body

A. Analysis of plot

Exposition

Rising action

Climax

Falling action

Resolution

B. Analysis of characters

Protagonist

Antagonist

Supporting characters

C. Analysis of themes

Love

Power

Justice

D. Analysis of literary devices

Imagery

Symbolism

Irony

III. Counterarguments

A. The argument that the analysis is subjective or biased

B. The argument that the literary work can be interpreted in multiple ways

C. Refutation of counterarguments

IV. Conclusion

A. Restate thesis statement

B. Recap of main points

C. Final thoughts on the significance of the literary work and its impact on literature