

One Page Literary Analysis

Definition: **Analysis** is the practice of looking closely at small parts to see how they affect the whole. **Literary analysis** focuses on how plot/structure, symbol, theme, character, setting, and many other techniques are used by the author to create meaning. Always be sure to discuss the significance of your observations to the main idea about life (the theme).

Writing Prompt: Bradbury uses the phoenix as a symbol at the end of his novel.

Question: How does this phoenix symbol connect to the theme of wisdom and knowledge and apply to society today?

Description of Paper:

Introduction: follow **ANT** for the introduction

- **Attention-getter.** The attention-getter should be and general and interesting. It should draw the reader in and connect thematically to the thesis. It should not be a questions
- **Necessary information:**
 - Author's name (Ray Bradbury)
 - Title of work (*Fahrenheit 451*)
 - Thematic Statement – this is the why of your analysis paper (universal message that connects to life)
- **Thesis:** your thesis is the argument of the paper that needs to be supported by everything that follows. It is the answer to your question.

Sample (taken from a literary resource)

- **Question:** How is the setting in *The Catcher in the Rye* used as a symbol to reveal Holden Caulfield's character? What point about life is the author making?
- **Thematic statement:** The author shows that people do not see faults in themselves that they condemn in others.
- **Thesis statement:** Salinger uses the school, the hotel, and the museum as symbols to emphasize how Holden has the flaws that he routinely criticizes.

Body Paragraph: follow **TIQAS** for the body paragraph

- **Topic Sentence:** the paragraph needs a topic sentence. This cannot be a quote from the novel. It is a sentence that is introducing the point that supports the thesis statement.
- **Introduce quotes**—otherwise known as a lead-in: provide context to quote. Who said it? Where is it said? When are they said? What is going on? Etc.
- **Quotes:** provide two separate quotes that support your topic sentence. Use MLA citations.
- **Analysis:** provide an analysis of how this quote supports your argument/topic sentence- this is a description of quote and what Bradbury was trying to accomplish by writing this. Connect it to the universal message.
- **Summary Statement-** wrap up your paragraph by restating your point

Conclusion: (4Rs)

- **Restate your thesis:** this does not mean rewrite or repeat- state again in a new form. Write your thesis again, but write it in a creatively different way.
 - **Review your main point:** briefly summarize the main point of your body paragraph
 - **Relate the argument to the broader world.** Use an example from today to support your argument
 - **Round-off:** Clinch your last impression to the reader by relating back to the attention getter or title of the paper.
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Literary Analysis Planning- Outline

Question: How does this symbol connect to the theme of wisdom and knowledge

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Thesis Statement:

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Topic Sentence:

Story Detail-

Quote 1:

Story Detail-

Quote 2:

I) Intro paragraph

- A) Begin with a general statement or a quote from another source or other **attention getter** to introduce your paper

- B) Transition to thesis with **Necessary** information. Sentences that introduce the **topic, book, and author** and lead to your specific thesis.

- C) **Thesis statement** – this tells your reader **specifically** what your paper is going to be about. **Do not say** “my paper is . . .” or “I am going to tell you” or “I think”

II) Body paragraph

- A) **Topic sentence** – present your argument.

- B) **Introduce** quote with a lead in- set it up for the reader

- C) **Textual support** – this is a **quote** taken from the book which supports your argument.

Page number goes in parenthesis at the end of the quote, followed by the period.

D) **Analysis** – two sentences that tell explain how the textual evidence supports the argument

E) **Introduce** quote with a lead in

F) **Textual support**

G) **Analysis**

- H) **Conclusion/transition** – you will sum up the argument in this paragraph and prepare the reader for the next argument

III) Conclusion

- A) Refer back to your **thesis and restate** it in different wording.

- B) **Review/reiterate** your arguments/main points in three sentences. These are all your thoughts, not Bradbury's. **Do not say** “in conclusion” or “I have shown you” or “as you can see”

- C) **Relate** the argument to the broader world.

D) **Concluding sentence** – Link back to intro and leave your reader with a final thought that will keep him or her thinking about your paper

Work Cited

Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451*. New York: Simon & Schuster Paperbacks, 1995. Print.

Reminders

- No first or second person pronouns- I, we, our, us, you, you, you!
- Use present tense verbs
- No contractions
- Example citation –

Montag is so disgusted by the actions of the firemen that he doesn't know if he can continue to be one. He states to his wife, "It's only a step from not going to work today to not working tomorrow, to not working at the firehouse ever again" (61).