

English 12B

Focus For This Week: Unit 5 Lessons 21-22
Literary Analysis Project Overview

Literary Analysis Project Overview

Throughout this writing project, you will plan, draft, and revise a literary analysis essay. In this essay, you will compare or contrast how authors Mary Shelley and Ann Radcliffe treat the element of **fear** in their respective works, *Frankenstein* and *The Mysteries of Udolpho*. You will use only the novels themselves—*Frankenstein* and *The Mysteries of Udolpho*—for evidence in your essay.

Mysteries of Udolpho [Started in Lesson 13]

<https://sageoak.instructure.com/courses/612/modules/items/8044>

Analysis is NOT Summary

A summary simply retells what happened.

A literary analysis essay explains and interprets the meaning of a literary text.

Your literary analysis essay for this particular assignment will

- compare or contrast how the element of fear is developed in *Frankenstein* and *The Mysteries of Udolpho*
- make a specific, arguable claim about the similarities or differences of how the element of fear is handled in both texts
- use evidence from both texts to help develop and support your claim

Literary Analysis Asserts a Claim

Your literary analysis must focus on explaining and interpreting the two texts.

Here are two examples of a claim.

- **Claim 1:** Authors Mary Shelley and Ann Radcliffe use the element of fear to illustrate the nature of humanity in their novels.

This claim points out similarities between how the two authors develop the topic of fear within their texts.

- **Claim 2:** While Mary Shelley uses fear to comment on the darker nature of humanity, Ann Radcliffe applies fear both to examine individual human psychology and to engage her readers.

This claim points out differences between how the two authors develop the element of fear within their texts.

Task, Purpose, Audience

Task: Write a literary analysis essay comparing or contrasting two texts.

Purpose: to demonstrate my ability to analyze and compare or contrast how the element of fear is treated in two texts

Audience: General/ Teacher

To develop your literary analysis essay, you will need to examine both texts closely.

As you examine each text and develop your claim, consider these literary and narrative elements for use as textual evidence. Examine the role of each and assess whether it helps develop or depict an idea of fear (for example, an author's use of pacing can help build a sense of urgency and suspense):

- characters
- setting
- plot
- pacing
- tone
- sensory details
- figurative language
- point of view

Fear Compare/Contrast

Look for elements that deal with the idea of fear in the two texts. For example, look for

- characters who feel or say something that indicates fear or dread
- classic characteristics of a Gothic Romantic setting, like mountains or castles
- sensory details that indicate gloom or chill

Possible Essay Structure for Outline [Suggested in Lesson]

Paragraph 1: Introduction

Paragraph 2: Mary Shelley's treatment of fear in *Frankenstein*

Paragraph 3: Ann Radcliffe's treatment of fear in *The Mysteries of Udolpho*

Paragraph 4: Comparing or contrasting the two

Paragraph 5: Conclusion

Other Possible Essay Structure for Outline [Suggested by the Rebellious Mrs. Mullins]

Paragraph 1: Introduction

Paragraph 2: Similarities (comparison) of Mary Shelley's treatment of fear in *Frankenstein* to Ann Radcliffe's treatment of fear in *The Mysteries of Udolpho*

Paragraph 3: Differences (contrast) of Mary Shelley's treatment of fear in *Frankenstein* to Ann Radcliffe's treatment of fear in *The Mysteries of Udolpho*

Paragraph 4: Conclusion

Example of Writing an Outline

Consider how you might organize an outline around one of the claims previously created as an example:

While Mary Shelley uses fear to comment on the darker nature of humanity, Ann Radcliffe applies fear both to examine individual human psychology and to engage her readers.

I. introduction

A. background or context for the topic

B. claim: While Mary Shelley uses fear to comment on the darker nature of humanity, Ann Radcliffe applies fear both to examine individual human psychology and to engage her readers.

II. body paragraphs

A. paragraph 1 – topic: how Mary Shelley uses fear to comment on the darker nature of humanity in *Frankenstein*

1. topic sentence: Through the fearful experiences of Victor Frankenstein, Mary Shelley skillfully meditates on the grim and unintended consequences of humanity's actions.

2. supporting details: examples of actions, physical descriptions, dialogue, and more

B. paragraph 2 – topic: how Ann Radcliffe uses fear in *The Mysteries of Udolpho* to provide psychological insights and to pull in readers

1. topic sentence: Radcliffe manipulates the narrative's pacing and setting to build suspense and incite fear in *The Mysteries of Udolpho*.

2. supporting details (examples of pacing and setting that build suspense)

C. paragraph 3 – topic: the comparison or contrast of the elements of fear in each text

1. topic sentence: The authors use elements of fear for different purposes.

2. supporting details: examples that show evidence of the similar elements and an explanation of how they function differently within each text

III. conclusion

recap of the claim and main ideas; the lesson or message for readers to take away

When writing this general outline, you only need to write the claim, topic sentences that forecast the main idea of each paragraph, and a few supporting details for each. Keep in mind that your ideas may change as you write and discover potentially more effective ways to present your information.

Questions??

Live Session Activity: Nearpod- Frankenstein