

Student Name (first and last)

Professor Allie Faden or Allie Faden

English 2328

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Analysis of [insert theme] in [insert literary work's title]

For this essay, you will select **one** selection **from the Norton Anthology of American Literature, v.C, 8th ed. that we have not covered in class** to write. After selecting and reading your chosen literary work, you will decide on a theme within that work for exploration. Examples of themes you might choose from may be found on the following, non-exhaustive, list:

1. Setting – how does the author use setting to make a point, or to enhance an already obvious point?
2. Government – is the author making commentary on governmental systems? What do you think their message is? What evidence supports your belief, and what evidence contradicts it?
3. Economics – is the author making economic commentary? What do you think their message is? What evidence supports your belief, and what evidence contradicts it?
4. Religion – is the author making religious commentary? What do you think their message is? What evidence supports your belief, and what evidence contradicts it?
5. Society behavior – is the author making commentary on a specific societal norm or ill? What do you think their message is? What evidence supports your belief, and what evidence contradicts it?
6. Science and technology – is the author making scientific/technological commentary? What do you think their message is? What evidence supports your belief, and what evidence contradicts it?
7. Education – is the author making educational commentary? What do you think their message is? What evidence supports your belief, and what evidence contradicts it?

Next, you will want to consider the ways in which your main theme is being explored by the author, the social significance of this commentary, your own stake in this analysis, and ways in which others might view the given trope in your selected work. Do they utilize one of the big rhetorical tropes *ethos*, *pathos*, and/or *logos*? Do they utilize other rhetorical tropes, such as parody, irony, or satire? Do they speak frankly in the text, or is the message embodied in the various forms of symbolism? What do you think the author's goal in providing this commentary is? Are there people who might disagree with your interpretation? If so, why might they disagree? How do you answer their concerns, without dismissing them, so that your argument makes *more* sense? How does what you are studying relate to your life now? Why is this a topic of interest for you?

Gather your quotes. You will need evidence from the work to support your claims, so please determine what quotes you think will be relevant before you sit down to write. Ideally, no one will have more than 10% of their text stemming from quotes. Thus, for every sentence you quote, make sure you've written 9 sentences analyzing the quote and its relevance to your claim. Cite **all** quotes in text **and** in your works cited sheet in accordance with MLA 7th edition standards.

From a structural standpoint, this is not the standard "five paragraph essay." Whenever possible, breathe life into your essay by writing from your heart, mind, and soul – not from a formula. You will, however, wish to model your document formatting based on this assignment sheet. Please avoid using "filler" or "fluff" to increase the length of your essay. Instead, if you are concerned your essay is not as long as you feel it should be, consider adding more detail to specific passages, where appropriate. Standard academic fonts include Garamond, Helvetica, Arial, and Times New Roman. You are permitted to use any font that is not considered "silly" or presents challenges to the reader due to overly elaborate styling. These types of fonts include Comic Sans MS, Jester, and Gothic-style lettering. Any essay written in ASCII, Binary, Wingdings, or similar will receive an immediate failing grade of 0. Avoid using internet- or text-speak. If you cannot express a

specific thought without utilizing slang or jargon, make sure you define the slang or jargon term in a footnote.

Please remember that drafting is an important aspect of writing. All writers draft, and no writer puts out perfectly written essays on the first (or often, twentieth) try. After completing your first draft, print it out and take a pen to it. Make as many corrections as you can. Then come back to your computer and save the essay as a new document. If your document title is “Analysis of Darkness in e.e. cummings’ Poetry” your next “new document” should be “Analysis of Darkness in e.e. cummings’ Poetry1,” or similar. By saving as a new document before making any change to a previous one, you do not risk losing really good writing or information you didn’t see the value of in that moment. Should you need portions of previous drafts to fix or finish new drafts, they are on your hard drive, and you have a complete record of each step of your writing process. Once you have reviewed the corrections you wrote on your draft and changed the document, save again as a new document. This time, read that second draft **aloud** (to yourself or to others). Does it make sense when read aloud? Are some parts awkward or confusing? Change those as you read. I recommend you go through this process at least 3 times, leaving at least 12 hours between readings so you have time to process each draft as an entirely new entity. You are also required to visit the writing center at least once, and should use their feedback as a means of performing edits for a new draft. Please consult your syllabus, and turnitin.com, for information on when assignments are due.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Students must visit the writing center at least one time, and must provide proof of visitation to receive credit for the assignment. The preferred method of providing proof of writing center visitation is to take a picture of the writing center tutor’s signature, or any form the tutor provides to substantiate you attended. Make this picture the last page of your document. Failure to utilize the writing center and provide proof of visitation will result in a 20 point deduction from your grade.

When going to the writing center, you will bring a hard copy of your assignment, this assignment sheet, and the rubric posted on The Learning Web. Please ask your tutor to review your assignment in accordance to both the assignment sheet and rubric.

2. All turnitin submissions must be in .DOC or .DOCX format to be accepted.
3. No secondary sources are to be used in this assignment. I am interested only in how **you** analyze the text and anticipate problems with your argument. I am not, for this assignment, interested in how your analysis enters into conversation with other commenters.
4. Minimum length of this essay is 750 words, and the value of this assignment is 20% of your total grade.