

THE GREAT GATSBY ESSAY

Response to Literature

Requirements:

- Choose one topic to write in reflection to The Great Gatsby.
- Length: Typed, double-spaced, at least five paragraphs (introductory paragraph, three body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph)
- 12 font, Times New Roman or Arial
- MLA Format
- Be sure to include the topic number that you have chosen in the title of your paper.
- NO PERSONAL STATEMENTS! Yes, it IS your opinion, but you will *not* refer to yourself in this essay. See examples in your book.
- Your paper needs to be submitted to turnitin.com by midnight on 2/19. No exceptions.

Introductory Paragraph:

- In your opening sentence of your introductory paragraph, be sure to mention the title of the novel and the author's name.
- You may give a short summary of the novel in your introductory paragraph. Make sure that your introductory paragraph is at least 8 sentences long.
- Be sure to include a three part thesis statement (one sentence that contains the topics for your three body paragraphs) at the end of your introductory paragraph.

Three Body Paragraphs:

- Each of your three main body paragraphs needs to have a topic sentence that reflects the three topics mentioned in your thesis statement.
- Use six quotes from the novel
 - Quotes may be dialog or narration.
 - Each quote may not be any longer than three lines in your paper.
 - Be sure to use the author's last name and page number for the first quote; each quote thereafter just needs to have the page number in parentheses).
- Answer to the prompt when you are writing your three body paragraphs. Give specific details from the novel that support your claim (thesis statement). Do not simply give me a plot summary.

Concluding Paragraph:

- Conclude your essay with a well-thought out conclusion of at least 8 sentences that wraps up the points made in your paper.

Writing Topics – Choose 1!

- 1) The Great Gatsby concerns the corruption of the American Dream. Write a character analysis of Jay Gatsby's life. Where and how did his dreams "go wrong"? In each of your three main body paragraphs, discuss his characters traits and the social influences that contributed to his downfall. Also, explain what message Fitzgerald is conveying about the values of the modern American Dream.
- 2) Nick makes the observation that "No amount of fire or freshness can challenge what a man will store up in his ghostly heart." In other words, reality can never measure up to the dreams we create for ourselves. In your essay, take a position on Nick's observation. You may agree with Nick's assertion, disagree with his assertion, or present a different point of view on the issue. Use specific reasons and examples from the novel to support your position.
- 3) The Great Gatsby is a study of American society in the 1920s. Discuss three underlying views of that society which Fitzgerald conveys through the characters and events of the novel.
- 4) Who is the most responsible for Gatsby's death? Tom? Daisy? Myrtle? Gatsby himself? Choose three characters to explain how each contributed to his death, but be sure to mention the person whom you think is the most responsible.
- 5) Trace the role of religion, God, or theology in the novel.
- 6) About Tom and Daisy, Nick says, "They were careless people, Tom and Daisy – they smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness, or whatever it was that kept them together, and let other people clean up the mess they had made" (180-181). Explain this passage in light of the entire novel. In other words, explain three situations in which the above statement is true in the novel.
- 7) Discuss how the theme of The Great Gatsby is developed through the use of symbolism. Possible themes to consider include:
 - The corruption of The American Dream
 - The corruption of moral values
 - The reality of love and relationships
 - The arrogance and hollowness of the elite

Symbols which are used to develop these themes include:

- The green light
- The valley of ashes
- The eyes of Dr. T. J. Eckleburg
- Gatsby's parties, house, car, clothes, etc.
- Bad drivers
- Colors (green, yellow, pink, white)
- Clocks/timepieces