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## Literary Analysis Essay

Length: 4 pages (minimum) – 5 pages (maximum)

Due Dates: Draft = February 28 (10 AM)  
Proof of Visit to Writing Tutor = March 6  
Final Version = March 9 (5 PM)

**Format:** MLA page layout / one inch margins / Times 12 / no intro—thesis statement only as into  
Word files: Please label the file .pe (for psychon essay) followed by your first name and last name initials and then .doc. In my case, for example, I would submit a file entitled **pejkd.doc**

**Purpose:** To closely read a literary text, construct an argument about its cultural significance, and support that argument through detailed analysis of the language of the text. An essay of literary analysis has a thesis that links an aspect of literature (signs, images, language, characters, incidents, etc.) to a theme or cultural comment (intended or otherwise) made by the text. Having stated this thesis, it structures its paragraphs around specific images etc. and looks closely at the text. Each paragraph should include quotes from the text presented in sentences that explain and interpret those quotes.

**Sample Thesis:** "Through representations of puppeteers, Psychoanalytic male desire to control women for reducing America to a closed system." Aspect of literature = representations of puppeteers / Theme or cultural comment = male desire to control contributes to closing of America. Subsequent paragraphs in this essay would discuss Pierce, Hawthorne, Mucho, and Debbler as examples of male efforts to dominate women. Each paragraph would attempt to advance the thesis through explaining and discussing these examples and linking them back to the thesis argument.

**The Draft:** Due Thursday February 28 by 10 AM the draft provides an opportunity for the instructor to evaluate the basic structure of your essay. My brief comments will focus on your thesis, topic, and clincher sentences, although I will give you detailed feedback about one body paragraph. I will not grade the draft, but you must submit at least three complete pages to receive credit for the assignment.

**The Visit to a Writing Tutor:** The writing lab (on the ground floor of the library building) has tutors who can review your essay before you turn it in to me. For the first paper, I require everyone to do this and submit proof that they have met with a writing tutor to me. After I return your draft to you (I will send them back to you on Friday March 1) you should revise it and then give a writing lab tutor who can help you work on further revisions before you submit your final version to me.

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