

The Great Gatsby
Essay Assignment

Requirements

Write a fully developed, analytical essay on *one* of the essay prompts provided. Essay must be at least four paragraphs (intro, body, conclusion) and must include several pieces of evidence from the text, at least two quotes from the text, and a Works Cited page. See the Analytical Essay Packet on my website for guidance.

Prompts

Select one of the following prompts:

Social Class – How are the characters divided by social class? Which symbols does Fitzgerald use to illustrate their division? What is his message regarding one’s ability to move into a higher or lower class? Defend your argument with evidence from the text.

Good vs. Evil – Which characters are perceived as traditionally “good” and traditionally “evil”? How does Fitzgerald challenge those perceptions? How does Fitzgerald’s use of color symbolism enhance your understanding of this concept? What is his message about society’s perceptions of good and evil? Defend your argument with evidence from the text.

The American Dream – First, define the American Dream. Which character(s) does Fitzgerald use to illustrate The Dream (not just their individual dreams)? What is Fitzgerald’s message about the attainability of The American Dream? Defend your argument with evidence from the text.

Redemption – Most readers would consider Tom Buchanan a detestable character. However, is there a moment, or moments, in which he fully redeems himself? Explain how his redemption is achieved or lost. Defend your argument with evidence from the text.

Greatness – What does it mean to “be great”? Is Gatsby truly great? Determine whether or not Gatsby is truly great and defend your argument with evidence from the text.

The Great Gatsby

Essay Rubric

Name _____

Class pd _____

Rubric:

Content

Introduction /10

General to specific info...title, author, brief summary

Thesis is clear, answers the prompt, and states an argument /5

Body Paragraphs /45

topic sentence supports the thesis and supports topic /5

contains two quotes with correct parenthetical citation /5

quotes are set up and discussed /10

thesis is supported with accurate textual evidence /20

transitions within the paragraph & between paragraphs /5

Conclusion /10

thesis statement reworded

conclusion includes summary of the main points without repetition

MLA Format /5

TNR, 12pt, 1" margins, double spaced throughout, proper heading

Works Cited /10

Correct bibliographic info provided, correct order, correct punctuation

Grammar/Spelling/Voice /15

Essay is free of grammatical and spelling errors; formal voice is used throughout

Total Points /100

Use of Vocabulary Workshop words + =

of days late: - % = /100
