

ENG 2413: Answering the Short Answer Essay Question

All handouts and supplements available on the class web page at

http://kellimcbride.com/lit_essay/lit_essay.htm



DUE: June 22nd

COMPLETION TIME: 20-30 minutes



LESSON MATERIALS

- Short Answer Essay Assignment
- Writing the Literary Essay (PDF & PPT)
- MLA for Literary Classes (PDF and PPT)
- The Literary Essay Exam (PDF & PPT)
- Grading Rubric for Essay Exam
- Take Home Exam

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Length: 150-200 words

Format: Follow MLA guidelines in course syllabus

THIS ASSIGNMENT IS WORTH 25 POINTS.

Your default *audience* for this assignment consists of *intelligent, college-level readers*. You may specify a more particular audience, using examples that will resonate with them.



ADDITIONAL

You may make an appointment with me (or email me) at any phase of your assignment to discuss any ideas or problems you may be having. I am more than willing to look at drafts at any stage of development.

Please consult the information in your syllabus about scheduling appointments in order to do so. You may also schedule an appointment in SSC's Student Success Center with a writing tutor.



GUIDELINES

This assignment requires you duplicate the process we just finished as a group in class. Using the same course materials but a different sample question and answer, evaluate the given response based on the writer's use of MLA, skill as a writer, and response to the actual question.

OBJECTIVES

1. Given the sample question and answer and grading rubric, the learner will be able to identify one missing and one completed requirement.
2. Given the sample answer and a guide to MLA-style documentation, the learner will be able to correct errors in MLA documentation.
3. Given the sample answer and a guide to essay writing basics, the learner will be able to correct errors in grammar, style, and structure.

Sample Question & Answer for Evaluation

Q: Is the narrator in Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart" insane? Point to places in the text that would support your response.

A: In Edgar Allan Poe's The Tell-Tale Heart, the mad narrator explains in detail how he whacks the old man, who screams as he dies. The police show up because a neighbor calls them and the madman gives them a tour of the house, ending up in the bedroom, where the man has been buried under the bed. The narrator hears the old man's heart beating loudly, and he is driven to confess the murder. Though the narrator claims he is not mad, the reader realizes that he is unreliable and lies about his sanity. For example, the mad narrator says he can hear "all things in the heaven and in the earth." He also tells a completely untrue lie to the police when he tells them that the shriek they hear occurs in his dream (247). Though sane people lie, most don't meticulously plan murders, lie to the police, and then confess without prompting. Finally, the madman is so plagued with guilt that he hears his own conscious in the form of the old man's heart beating loudly (247). Dead hearts do not beat, nor do sane people confuse their conscious's with the sounds of external objects. All of these reasons prove that the narrator in Poe's short story, The Tell-Tale Heart is nuttier than a fruit cake.

Work Cited

Poe, Edgar Allan. "The Tell-Tale Heart." p. 245-47.