

Grade 9 Choice Novel Study Essay

Along with any good dystopian novel, there is almost always a theme in common: they deal with some kind of *conflict*.

In our previous exercise, we talked about 7 different types of conflicts in two categories:

Person vs. Person
Person vs. Self
Person vs. Nature

Person vs. Machine
Person vs. Society
Person vs. Unknown

Person vs. Beast

These conflicts are either *internal* or *external*.

In your life, like the characters in the works that we've studied, you will surely at some point be put in a situation where you face some kind of conflict. Things like tragedy, success, personal obstacles, challenges, etc. can be considered conflict (or can cause conflict), which helps you to define who you are and what you are capable of or limited by. In most of the novels studied, characters are put in situations that test their limits or force them to make changes or adapt. Those situations show how people deal with conflict and what the lasting effects might be.

Your job is to use more than one of the readings that we've done this year - and/or your own personal experiences - and show how the theme of conflict is present and important. You can compare situations, contrast situations, or find some unique way of approaching the topic of conflict in your essay.

As usual, you will write a 5 paragraph essay. You will need to come up with a **thesis** that is arguable, fact-based, and interesting. **Your body paragraphs exist to help prove your thesis.** Each paragraph/point should be related to proving that thesis/point.

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Pick **AT LEAST TWO** of those things (or something I've forgotten about...) and use the theme of conflict to form a thesis. Can you find characters from two readings and compare them to your life? Are they facing or overcoming conflict in a similar way? Have they faced a conflict that is changing/shaping their lives in a similar/different way? Have you faced any of the same sorts of struggles found in something that we studied? Etc.

This time, you will be marked using the same rubrics that we use to mark your exam, so you should look at those and do your best to get full marks in each of the 4 areas.

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A: Organization and Ideas

Introduction

- The hook (question, quote, story, statement, etc...) grabs the attention of the reader.
- Sufficient information on the topic is provided so that the audience understands the topic/material completely.
- Thesis and outline points are stated and clear. Thesis is fact-based, arguable and interesting.

Body

- Each paragraph includes a topic sentence introducing the broad goal.
- Each broad goal has three specific proof points explained in detail. If there is not enough detail, please indicate on the essay where more support is needed.
- Specific references to the novel(s) are provided (author & page number in parentheses. Eg: (Steinbeck, 32)
- Paragraphs are organized in a logical manner, which makes the ideas easy to follow.
- Transitions were evident throughout the entire essay.
- Word choice is appropriate for the audience and context.

Conclusion

- Thesis has been re-stated
- Ideas presented in the essay have been summarized
- A final thought for the audience has been included

B: Grammar/ Spelling

C: Comments

1. Identify one thing the author did well in this essay (introduction, organization, grammar, word choice, etc...). If applicable, provide an example from their text that demonstrates this skill.
2. What is one thing that the author should focus on in his/her good copy (providing more support, transitions, organization of ideas, etc...)?
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