

Essay II Assignment Position Paper

(Structure outline adapted from the Writing Center of the University of Hawai‘i - West O‘ahu)

This paper must:

- accurately describe at least **three different positions on a single issue** in the interpretation of one of the assigned literary works—that is, three different answers to the same interpretive question
- provide *supporting arguments* used by those who hold each position
- provide **your own position** on the issue (one of the three or more positions), which is a claim about the significance or meaning (theme and message) of the literary work
- provide *counterarguments* against the arguments of other positions
- provide *supporting arguments* for your own position
- provide *evidence* for your supporting arguments (including evidence from the literary work—details/quotations, with citations)
- be **4-5 pages long** in MLA format (this means that the words must at least reach the bottom of the fourth page)
- include the following sections:

Introduction

Explain the issue.

Write your issue in a complete sentence. Explain it, and include the information that provides background and makes the issue interesting to your readers.

Assert your main claim (your position on the issue).

Countering Arguments for First Position (repeat for Second Position, Third Position, etc.)

Summarize the first position on this issue.

Provide supporting arguments used by those who hold the position.

Use summarized ideas and/or quotes from your sources.

Refute these arguments.

Give support for your refutation.

Your First Subclaim (repeat for Second Subclaim, Third Subclaim, etc.)

State your subclaim (smaller claim supporting your main claim—your position on the issue).

Each subclaim is a reason your audience should agree with your main claim.

Provide support for your subclaim.

[Counterarguments and Subclaims may be in any order, as long as they make sense in that order.]

Conclusion

Restate your argument: why your audience should agree with your position.

Show the significance and impact of your position: why it matters that your audience should agree with you.