


# Literary Analysis Essay Unit

**Objective:** Students plan and write literary analysis essays from scratch based on a theme in the text.

**Prompt:** Choose a major theme in the text. How does the author develop this theme?

 You can replace this prompt with your own in any activity (or use [our assignment library](#))!

**Duration:** 5–8 class periods, or fewer with homework

## Pre-Write

2–3 class periods



**Graphic Organizer:** [Identifying a Theme to Use in a Thesis](#)

Students identify a theme in the text and use that theme to land on a thesis.

15–20  
minutes



**Peer Review:** [Thesis Statement](#)

Students revise their thesis statements with anonymous feedback from five classmates.

30–45  
minutes

**Rubric:** Thesis is an opinion  
Thesis statement is interesting



**Print-Out:** [Evidence Cards](#)

Students collect evidence from the source text to support their thesis statements.

30–45  
minutes

 Looking for more pre-writing resources? You can find [our full collection here!](#)

## Draft

2–3 class periods




**Guided Draft:** [Literary Analysis Essay](#) 

Students draft a full literary analysis essay with the support of targeted tips.

**Rubric:** Thesis statement introduces a strong interpretation of the text(s)  
Each topic sentence supports the thesis  
Each piece of evidence supports the topic sentence  
Explanation shows how the evidence supports the topic sentence  
Conclusion restates the thesis and explains why the analysis matters  
Language is specific and concise

120–180  
minutes

 Before starting to draft, students will see an interactive tutorial for this activity!  
Try projecting the tutorial and going through it as a whole class.

## Revise

1–2 class periods



**Self Review:** [Literary Analysis Essay](#) 

Students review and revise their rough drafts with scaffolded support.

30–90  
minutes

**Rubric:** Same as Guided Draft