

Lesson Name : 35

Lesson Title : Lord of the Flies Essay: Outline

Course Name : English 2 Part 2 [Honors]

Task Id : 54833990

Course Id : 15020



Essential Instruction

In this lesson, you will begin to work on writing an analytical essay about the novel *Lord of the Flies*. This essay has three steps. Each step corresponds to a lesson in your eCourse. The steps are:

Step 1: Choose a prompt and create an outline for your essay.

Step 2: Write a draft of your essay.

Step 3: Revise and edit the first draft of your essay to create a polished final copy.

In this lesson, you will complete step 1 of writing the essay.

Essay Overview

Before you choose a prompt or begin to write your outline, you need to understand the purpose of the analytical essay. When you are asked to write an analytical essay in an English course, this typically means that you will critically examine a text in order to explain its purpose or interpret its meaning. One of the great things about literature is that it may be interpreted in many different ways, which means that there is not always one right answer. Because of this, a key component of an analysis is **evidence**, or support for your interpretation. In literature, this evidence is textual, which means that it comes from the text.

Sometimes an analytical essay will be open-topic, which means that you can choose the text and topic of your paper. For this essay, however, there are assigned prompts based on the novel *Lord of the Flies*. There are five prompts to choose from. You will have to respond to one of these prompts in your essay.

Whichever prompt you choose today will be the prompt that you write about for all three steps of this essay.

Before you begin, look over the [rubric](#) for the final copy of your essay. This will give you a better idea of how your essay will be graded. Even though you are working on planning the essay at this point, you should make sure that you understand the requirements of the essay before you begin.

The rest of this lesson will discuss the prompts you may pick from and the outline that you will create for this step of the writing process.

Step 1 Overview

For this step of the writing process, there are two things that you need to do. First, you need to choose one of the five prompts on which to write your paper. Second, you need to create an outline for your paper, using the supplied outline template.

Choosing a Prompt

Begin by reading through the list of prompts:

Prompt 1	What does Golding say about human nature in <i>Lord of the Flies</i> ? Is it inherently good or evil? How does Golding develop his message throughout the book? How does this message have relevance today?
Prompt 2	What does Golding say about civilization in <i>Lord of the Flies</i> ? What role do rules and order play in civilization on the island in <i>Lord of the Flies</i> ? What happens when rules and order break down on the island? How is Golding's interpretation of the breakdown of civilization applicable to the world at large?
Prompt 3	What role do masks play in <i>Lord of the Flies</i> ? Consider the symbolic meaning of the masks and their role in the characters' development and actions. What point does Golding make by including this symbol in his book, and how does that point relate to the world today?
Prompt 4	What role does fear play in <i>Lord of the Flies</i> ? Explain how fear helps to develop the characters and conflicts in the book. How is Golding's point that fear controls people's actions relevant in the world today?
Prompt 5	What qualities allow Jack and Ralph to become leaders on the island in <i>Lord of the Flies</i> ? Are other characters, such as Simon or Piggy, more qualified to be leaders? Why don't these characters assume leadership roles? What does this suggest about society's choices about which leaders to elect and follow?

Each prompt is composed of a series of questions related to a single idea, theme, or concept from *Lord of the Flies*. When you write your paper, you will have to answer these questions by analyzing the book. Keep in mind that as long as you are fully addressing the prompt and supplying evidence to support your points, there are no right or wrong answers to these questions. For example, you may think that Golding is arguing that human nature is inherently evil. Another student may think that Golding is arguing that human nature is inherently good. As long as both of you can support your arguments with evidence from the text, you are meeting the requirements of the assignment.

Take a few minutes to read through each prompt and consider which one you want to choose for your essay. It might help to review [Lord of the Flies](#) or any notes you may have taken while reading the book. When choosing a prompt, consider the following:

- Can you answer all of the questions in the prompt?
- Can you identify evidence from the book that will support your points?
- Do you feel like you have a lot to say to address the prompt?

Ultimately, you will write a three to five page paper responding to the prompt you choose. Make sure that you pick a prompt that you feel comfortable with. Additionally, if you have any questions about the prompts, you should contact your teacher to get clarification before you begin.

When you have chosen a prompt, you can move on to creating your outline.

Creating an Outline

For this assignment, you will be provided with an outline template to fill out. There is a different template for each prompt, so make sure to download and fill out the correct template. *You only have to fill out one template for this assignment.*

Each template is set up in a similar format. At the top of the chart, you will see the prompt for the assignment. Beneath that, there are two columns. The left column describes the sections of the essay that you will outline. The right column is where you will outline your notes for each section of the essay.

Following is a breakdown of the different sections of the outline.

Thesis Statement

A thesis statement is a sentence that states the purpose of your paper. When you write an analytical essay, you can follow a formula to write a great thesis statement. You should answer the following two questions:

1. What does the paper argue?
2. How does the paper make this argument?

It may help to look at some examples. These examples will be based on this sample prompt:

What is the symbolic meaning of the conch shell in *Lord of the Flies*? How does its meaning evolve throughout the book? Why is the conch shell an important symbol in the book?

Keep in mind that this is not one of the prompts that you may use for your paper.

Example 1: By studying how Golding uses the conch shell as a symbol for rules and order throughout *Lord of the Flies*, one can see how he shows the fragility of civilization.

Do you see the two questions answered in this example? Take another look.

- What does the paper argue? *That Golding shows the fragility of civilization in Lord of the Flies*
- How does the paper make this argument? *By studying how Golding uses the conch shell as a symbol for rules and order*

As you can see, this thesis statement is directly related to the prompt, and it also tells the reader exactly what the paper is about. This is what a good thesis statement does.

Look at another example for the same prompt.

Example 2: By examining how the symbolic meaning of the conch shell evolves in *Lord of the Flies*, one can see how Golding uses the symbol to comment on Western civilization.

Can you identify the two components of the thesis statement?

- What does the paper argue? *That Golding uses the conch shell to comment on Western civilization*
- How does the paper make this argument? *By examining how the symbolic meaning of the conch shell evolves throughout Lord of the Flies*

Just like the first example, this is a good thesis statement because it directly relates to the prompt while telling the reader what the paper will discuss. These are the key components of a great thesis statement.

Some final notes on thesis statements:

- Make sure to use formal language. Don't use the pronouns *I*, *we*, or *you* in your thesis statement. Notice how both examples do this.
- Avoid language like *in this paper*, *in my opinion*, *this paper will argue*, etc. Phrases like these are redundant. The reader already knows that this is your paper, and your thesis statement will speak for itself. You don't have to announce it to your reader.

Follow these guidelines and you should be able to create an awesome thesis statement for your paper.

Body Sections

The body sections of the outline refer to the paragraphs that will make up the body of your essay. Although your final essay will be composed of three parts (an introduction, a body, and a conclusion), in this outline, you will focus primarily on the body of the paper.

In the outline template, each section of the body refers to part of the prompt. This is to ensure that you focus on each component of the prompt when outlining your paper. It also helps you begin to think about the organization of your paper.

When you fill out the notes for each body section in the outline template, you should give an overview of what you plan to discuss. There are two primary components: identifying how you will answer the question from the prompt and giving an overview of the evidence you will include to prove your point.

To get a better idea how the body sections should be filled out, check out the sample outline that follows. This sample uses the sample prompt from the thesis statement section to model the outline. *Remember, you cannot use the prompt in the sample for your essay.*

Prompt: What is the symbolic meaning of the conch shell in <i>Lord of the Flies</i> ? How does its meaning evolve throughout the book? Why is the conch shell an important symbol in the book?	
Section of Essay	My Notes
Thesis Statement What do you plan to prove in your paper? How do you plan to prove it? Write one sentence that states this without using the pronoun <i>I</i> .	By studying how Golding uses the conch shell as a symbol for rules and order throughout <i>Lord of the Flies</i> , one can see how he shows the fragility of civilization.
Body: Section 1 What is the symbolic meaning of the conch shell in <i>Lord of the Flies</i> ? What evidence will you use to support your point?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conch shell symbolizes rules and order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Its role in calling meetings ◦ Its role in Ralph's election ◦ Its role in maintaining order during meetings
Body: Section 2 How does the meaning of the conch shell evolve? What evidence will you use to support your point?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conch shell and Jack's rebellion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Dancing scene; Ralph is afraid to blow the shell ◦ Piggy's continual use of the conch shell to check Jack when he begins to rebel • The destruction of the conch shell <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Roger destroys the shell when he kills Piggy ◦ Jack's reaction correlates to the destruction of the shell (joy at the end of the shell and Ralph's leadership)
Body: Section 3 Why is the conch shell an important symbol in the book? What evidence will you use to support your point?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of the conch shell <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The conch shell is a symbol to both the reader and the boys ◦ It shows the fragility of rules and order in civilization ◦ The rules and order people agree to follow in civilization can be broken as easily as the conch shell

As you look at this sample, here are some things to pay attention to:

- The notes in the right column are just that: notes. The writer indicates what they will talk about, but does not write out a complete paragraph, because this is only an outline.
- Each of the body sections correlates to part of the prompt. In the corresponding notes section, the writer clearly indicates how they will address this part of the prompt, including giving an overview of the evidence they will provide.
- The writer organizes the notes by using bullet points and subpoints. This helps to clearly indicate each point and the evidence that coincides with that point. You should do something similar when you create your outline.

Now that you better understand how the outline is structured, you can begin to work on your outline. Click on a prompt to open the outline template for that prompt. *Remember, you only have to complete an outline for one of the prompts.*

Once you open the outline template, make sure to download it and save your work. You will turn in this outline as the assessment for this lesson.

Prompt 1	What does Golding say about human nature in <i>Lord of the Flies</i> ? Is it inherently good or evil? How does Golding develop his message throughout the book? How does this message have relevance today?
Prompt 2	What does Golding say about civilization in <i>Lord of the Flies</i> ? What role do rules and order play in civilization on the island in <i>Lord of the Flies</i> ? What happens when rules and order break down on the island? How is Golding's interpretation of the breakdown of civilization applicable to the world at large?
Prompt 3	What role do masks play in <i>Lord of the Flies</i> ? Consider the symbolic meaning of the masks and their role in the characters' development and actions. What point does Golding make by including this symbol in his book, and how does that point relate to the world today?
Prompt 4	What role does fear play in <i>Lord of the Flies</i> ? Explain how fear helps to develop the characters and conflicts in the book. How is Golding's point that fear controls people's actions relevant in the world today?
Prompt 5	What qualities allow Jack and Ralph to become leaders on the island in <i>Lord of the Flies</i> ? Are other characters, such as Simon or Piggy, more qualified to be leaders? Why don't these characters assume leadership roles? What does this suggest about society's choices about which leaders to elect and follow?

If you have questions about the way the outline is structured, you should contact your teacher.