

Name:

Period:

American Literature & Composition B
Literary Analysis Research Paper: Motifs in Edgar Allan Poe's Work (Swanson 2015)
Research for juniors count as 20% of your final grade.

Research Grade Breakdown

Thesis	/5	Due: _____
Revised Thesis	/5	Due: _____
Documented Sentence Outline	/25	Due: _____
Rough Draft	/100	Due: _____
Final Draft	/100	Due: _____

Choose *two* works by Edgar Allan Poe to write about:

- 1) "The Black Cat" (handout/online) short story
- 2) "Annabel Lee" (online) poem
- 3) "The Bells" (online) poem
- 4) "The Raven" pp. 466-470 poem
- 5) "Fall of the House of Usher" pp. 473-494 short story
- 6) "The Masque of Red Death" pp. 454-461 short story

Documented Literary Analysis of the Works of Edgar Allan Poe

What is a *Literary Analysis*? A literary analysis essay is a written composition made up of a balance of "**interpretation**" (your ideas about the text) and "**evidence**" (the details from the text that support your ideas).

Steps for this Literary Analysis:

Step #1: Choose the **2 works** and the **2 motifs** that are most interesting to you; be sure that both motifs occur *regularly* in both of your chosen stories or poems. **Essay length: 3-5 pages in MLA format**

Step #2: Gather evidence from the works that will help you answer the question/prove your argument. **(You did this already with your motif charts.)**

Step #3: Develop a thesis statement—what will your essay ultimately **prove** about the larger implications of the works and the relevance to today's readers/audience? Why do these motifs matter? What do they hint at? Do they reveal tenets of Gothic Romanticism? Do they hint at a universal theme or question? Do they point back at Poe's life?

Step #4: Create a general outline for your essay—How will you structure your argument? How will you group your thoughts? Will you group them according to motif or work? What would help you prove your point the best?

Step #5: Create a documented sentence outline (details and examples in this packet). It is documented meaning it requires **parenthetical documentation**, or it is considered **plagiarism**.

You do not need to include your scholarly secondary sources in your documented sentence outline, but you **must include them in your rough and final drafts.*

Step #6: Integrate information from your **two** scholarly secondary sources, and begin writing your rough draft and works cited pages.

Note about secondary sources: You will need to use *two scholarly secondary sources* for this paper, either deriving from Galenet, Galileo, or book sources only. *Keep in mind that all sources should not be the basis of your research, but rather, help support your argument about the motifs that exist in Poe's writings.* YOU are the brainpower behind this paper, not Harold Bloom.

Next, type your first draft in Google Docs. Hear me now; if you type in anything else, rest assured that you will lose your work. As a *precaution*, you may want to print out your work from time to time or email yourself an extra copy of your work to one or more email addresses just in case of an emergency! For your analysis, be sure to follow MLA standards and to fulfill all requirements detailed in the rubric! (For a reminder on how to set up an MLA paper, I've included a link on my website to show you how to do it.) Make sure that you always *EXPLAIN in your own words how the quotes relate to your argument and to one another.* **REMEMBER, THERE IS A TEN POINT DEDUCTION FOR EVERY DAY EACH DRAFT IS TURNED IN LATE (BOTH THE ROUGH AND FINAL) TO TURNITIN.COM.**

Step #7: Share your rough draft and Works Cited with me using Google Docs. Email address: swanson.joye@mail.fcboe.org
To earn credit towards this assignment, you must also submit your paper to turnitin.com. Link: http://turnitin.com/en_us/login
*Make sure you write down your submission ID number.

***NOTE:** Your rough draft should be a *fully written draft* including *all* the required elements, such as the *length of the your paper and the implementation of your secondary articles, plus your Works Cited page!* **You should treat this as if it is your final draft, so give it some TLC!**

Step #8: Review *all* feedback from me. Make corrections and address the comments I leave you. Edit your rough draft, and re-submit your paper to turnitin.com

Topic (two motifs + two works) : _____

Developing a Thesis Statement

Remember, the thesis statement is the MOST IMPORTANT SENTENCE in your paper. It lets the reader know the main idea of the paper and answers the question, "What am I trying to prove?" It's not a factual statement but a claim that has to be proven throughout the paper.

Now that you've decided on your topic, you need to brainstorm to decide what you want to argue. You can make a list, web, or anything else that will help you.

Brainstorm below:

Now, write your thesis statement. *Here are some example thesis statements to help you.*

Topic: Dreams, black animals, and eyes in "The Black Cat" and "The Raven"

Thesis: In both "The Black Cat" and "The Raven," Edgar Allan Poe uses the motifs of dreams, black animals, and eyes to accomplish a single effect on the reader.

Topic: Vortexes and clocks in "Masque of the Red Death" and "Fall of the House of Usher"

Thesis Statement: Vortexes and clocks appear repeatedly in both "Masque of the Red Death" and "Fall of the House of Usher"; both motifs contribute to themes of circular madness and endless time.

Thesis:

Revised Thesis:

Documented Sentence Outline NOTE: This example shows the paper arranged according to motifs chosen. It could also be arranged by works chosen. [I. would be your first story chosen, A. and B. plus their numbers would illustrate the two chosen motifs in that first story; II. would be your second story chosen, etc.]

Definition: A sentence outline is an outline where every point is written in complete sentence form. In a documented sentence outline, you use in-text references and parenthetical citations to cite your sources within your outline.

The Assignment:

Following all of the formatting requirements and rules below, write a documented sentence outline which indicates the structure and development of your literary analysis, showing its divisions and subdivisions. Make every entry of the outline a grammatically complete sentence, and include parenthetical citations. You do not have to include every sentence of your paper. For example, transitional elements and explanations or elaborations may not be in the outline.

Outline Rules:

- The outline must follow Standard English rules for capitalization and punctuation.
- The outline must follow composition standards.
- Do not write an outline with entries that contain single words, short phrases, sentence fragments, or questions. Every entry must be a complete declarative sentence of the sort which might actually appear in your paper.
- The outline must use proper MLA formatting and parenthetical citations.
- Failure to cite source information constitutes plagiarism even when you do not mean to cheat.
- The Works Cited Page must use proper MLA formatting.

Format:

Thesis:

I. Insert the topic sentence for your body paragraph and begin to build support for your thesis.

A. This sentence should be student-generated. Remember to document if necessary

().

1. This sentence should deepen, elaborate, or clarify your topic sentence. Remember to document if necessary ().

2. This sentence should connect the previous sentence to the next sentence. Remember to document if necessary ().

B. Cite the same or another source here, making a clear connection between this evidence and the last evidence given. Remember to document if necessary ().

1. This sentence should deepen, elaborate, or clarify your topic sentence. Remember to document if necessary ().

2. This sentence should connect the previous sentence to the next sentence. Remember to document if necessary ().

II. Follow this same format for all subsequent body paragraphs. You do not have to follow this format exactly. You may have A, B, C, for instance, under I, or 1, 2, and 3 under A. Your outline should fit your content.

Documented Sentence Outline Example (partial):

Thesis: In "The Masque of the Red Death" and "The Black Cat," Edgar Allan Poe employs the motifs of premature burial/suffocation and two sides of the self to point to the theme of the inevitability of death.

I. Images of premature burial and suffocation recur throughout the bulk of Poe's work.

A. In "The Mask of the Red Death," Prince Prospero and his cast of 1,000 courtiers inadvertently entomb themselves within the very abbey that they believed would save them from the fatal plague.

1. Hoping to "bid defiance at contagion" and leaving "the external world [to] take care of itself," the Prince and his friends "having entered, brought furnaces and massy hammers and welded the bolts" ("Masque of the Red Death" 145).

2. As the plague rages on outside of the abbey walls, life continues to be an everlasting party for these rich, privileged revelers.

3. However, after months in the abbey, the appearance of the Red Death comes "like a thief in the night," striking each of the courtiers dead "in the blood-bedewed halls of their revel" ("Masque of the Red Death" 151).

4. Unaware of their fate, Prince Prospero and his friends have been prematurely “buried” in their mass tomb for five or six months before their actual demises.
- B. “The Black Cat” illustrates the story of a madman who hangs a beloved pet, murders his wife, and interrs both inside the basement walls of his home.
1. Thus, the work satisfies both motifs of suffocation and premature burial, as one of these two remains alive and provides the catalyst to the madman’s imprisonment.
2. By “slip[ping] a noose around its neck and [hanging] it to the limb of a tree,” the narrator effectively suffocates the animal (“The Black Cat” 102).

Name:

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The Motifs of Edgar Allan Poe: LITERARY ANALYSIS -- DOCUMENTED SENTENCE OUTLINE

EITHER PRINT THIS OUT AND HANDWRITE IT, OR COPY AND PASTE THIS INTO A NEW GOOGLE DOC, AND SHARE IT WITH ME:

SWANSON.JOYE@MAIL.FCBOE.ORG

Introduction: Grab your reader! Things to consider: background on Poe, why he wrote things he chose to write about, aspects of Gothic Romanticism that connect to your motifs/universal theme, etc. . . Everything you discuss in your introduction should build up to your thesis, making your thesis the *last* sentence in your introduction.

Thesis: Remember, the thesis statement is the MOST IMPORTANT SENTENCE in your paper. It lets the reader know the main idea of the paper and answers the question, “What am I trying to prove?” This is a complete sentence that identifies the **texts**, **author**, **motifs** you’re writing about, and the **universal idea / significance** revealed through these motifs.

Body Paragraphs: You may want to group your body paragraphs according to the motif, work, or theme. Group your paragraphs according to what would *most* effective and fluid. All body paragraphs should help PROVE your thesis and should provide a combination of summary *and* analysis.

Conclusion: The conclusion is set up opposite of the introduction; in the conclusion, you should *start* with your thesis and then move to more general ideas and the “bigger picture” afterward. The point of the conclusion is to explain the importance of the thesis and how it should answer the question, “So what?” and/or “Why does it matter?”.. Then provide a call to action; give your readers something extra to think about.

Topic Sentence: Write one sentence revealing the specific topic of your paragraph.

State: Give your opinion, thought, or idea regarding your topic (YOURS but maintain third person).

Prove: Back up your opinion by using textual evidence both from Poe’s works and from your scholarly secondary sources. (Use a combination of paraphrases and direct quotes, all of which require parenthetical documentation.

Explain: Give a few sentences as to how your proof and statement work together to support your thesis—answer the “So what?” or “What importance is this proof to your paper?”

Revised thesis:

| **TOPIC SENTENCE for body paragraph #1:**

A. Example/Event #1:

i. **QUOTE (+ P.D.):**

- ii. **SIGNIFICANCE** (*What theme(s) do these motifs point to? How are these motifs/themes characteristic of Gothic Romanticism?*):

B. Example/Event #2

- i. **QUOTE (+ P.D.):**

- ii. **SIGNIFICANCE** (*What theme(s) do these motifs point to? How are these motifs/themes characteristic of Gothic Romanticism?*):

C. Example/Event #3 (OPTIONAL/You could use a scholarly source here):

- i. **QUOTE (+ P.D.)**

- ii. **SIGNIFICANCE** (*What theme(s) do these motifs point to? How are these motifs/themes characteristic of Gothic Romanticism?*):

II. TOPIC SENTENCE for body paragraph #2:

A. Example/Event #1:

- i. **QUOTE (+ P.D.):**

- ii. **SIGNIFICANCE** (*What theme(s) do these motifs point to? How are these motifs/themes characteristic of Gothic Romanticism?*):

B. Example/Event #2:

i. QUOTE (+ P.D.):

ii. SIGNIFICANCE (*What theme(s) do these motifs point to? How are these motifs/themes characteristic of Gothic Romanticism?*):

C. Example/Event #3 (OPTIONAL/You could use a scholarly source here):

i. QUOTE (+ P.D.):

ii. SIGNIFICANCE (*What theme(s) do these motifs point to? How are these motifs/themes characteristic of Gothic Romanticism?*):

III. TOPIC SENTENCE for body paragraph #3:

A. Example/Event #1:

i. QUOTE (+ P.D.):

ii. SIGNIFICANCE (*What theme(s) do these motifs point to? How are these motifs/themes characteristic of Gothic Romanticism?*):

B. Example/Event #2:

i. QUOTE (+ P.D.):

ii. SIGNIFICANCE (*What theme(s) do these motifs point to? How are these motifs/themes characteristic of Gothic Romanticism?*):

C. Example/Event #3 (OPTIONAL/You could use a scholarly source here):

i. QUOTE (+ P.D.):

ii. SIGNIFICANCE (*What theme(s) do these motifs point to? How are these motifs/themes characteristic of Gothic Romanticism?*):

IV. TOPIC SENTENCE for body paragraph #4:

A. Example/Event #1:

i. QUOTE (+ P.D.):

ii. SIGNIFICANCE (*What theme(s) do these motifs point to? How are these motifs/themes characteristic of Gothic Romanticism?*):

B. Example/Event #2:

i. QUOTE (+ P.D.):

ii. SIGNIFICANCE (*What theme(s) do these motifs point to? How are these motifs/themes characteristic of Gothic Romanticism?*):

C. Example/Event #3 (OPTIONAL/You could use a scholarly source here): :

i. QUOTE (+ P.D.):

ii. SIGNIFICANCE (*What theme(s) do these motifs point to? How are these motifs/themes characteristic of Gothic Romanticism?*):
:

****Remember, this is just a blueprint of your essay; this outline does not include your introduction or conclusion, nor does it require your secondary scholarly sources. Your actual paper must be THREE- FIVE PAGES. However, the more complete your outline is, the easier your rough draft will be to write. Use extra space if needed:**