

AP Literature and Composition

NOVEL FORM

To better prepare for the AP exam, students must note and review how quality literary pieces function. This form will act as a guide to help you outline specific works important to your growing repertoire of knowledge. During this course, you will be required to use this format to review every major piece of literature we read as well as select pieces you have read in the past.

Each response should be at least a solid paragraph in length. Make sure that you **ALWAYS** explain the **significance** of the items you are examining to the work as a whole. Specific textual support should accompany the more analytical and descriptive responses.

1. Book basics: title, author, literary movement, date written
2. Major characters: 1-2 sentence description for each of two to three major characters and how they are related to one another (the number of characters you write about will depend on your literary interpretation)
3. Minor characters: 1-2 sentence description for each of two to three minor characters and how they interact with the each other and/or the major characters (the number of characters you write about will depend on your literary interpretation)
4. Main settings: 1-2 sentence description for each of two to three main settings and how they effect plot, characterization, or theme (settings should come from the piece's beginning, middle, and end)
5. Plot summary: 1 paragraph maximum!
6. Symbols: 1-2 sentence description for each of two important symbols and how they effect plot, characterization, or theme (be sure to use textual support to explain their significance)
7. Style: 1 paragraph analyzing the author's style using diction, tone, detail, point of view, syntax, and/or organization (see your AP Language Rhetoric Project for definitions and examples)
8. Theme: 1 paragraph identifying and explicating the overall "truth about life" that the author conveys in the piece
9. Quotes typical of the work: 2-3 sentence explanation for each of three short quotations (include the quote itself, the speaker, the scene/occasion, the importance of the quote to scene/occasion and the work overall)
10. Literary elements: 2-3 sentence explanation for each of two literary elements and how the function in the piece to support plot, characterization, or theme (i.e.; allusion, alliteration, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, personification, etc., see your AP Language Rhetoric Project for more choices and for definitions and examples)