

Task IV Overview

- ✓ Read *Your Task* and the *Critical Lens*
- ✓ The *Critical Lens* is a *quote* that needs to be interpreted and agreed or disagreed with
- ✓ Write an essay based on *Your Task*
- ✓ Use **TWO** literary works (novels, plays, short stories, etc.) in your essay

Be sure to...

- ✓ Interpret the *Critical Lens* (what does it mean to you?)
- ✓ Mention the author of the *Critical Lens*
- ✓ Indicate whether you agree or disagree with the *Critical Lens*
- ✓ Use TWO literary works you are familiar with
 - ❑ Know the author (spelled correctly)
 - ❑ Know the characters
 - ❑ Know the setting, climax, conflict, etc.
 - ❑ **Know the plot; HOWEVER, avoid summarizing the plot in your essay!!**
 - ❑ Know at least TWO literary elements that connect to each work and your interpretation of the *Critical Lens*
- ✓ **AVOID PLOT SUMMARY IN YOUR ESSAY! AVOID FIRST PERSON- NO "I"!**
- ✓ Use relevant information from your TWO literary works to justify your interpretation of the *Critical Lens*
- ✓ **READ THE GUIDELINES!!!!**

Literature Organizer- Piece # 1

Title (Underlined or Quoted): _____

Author (Spelled Correctly): _____

Setting: _____

Main Characters: _____

Plot of the Story:

Conflict/Type:

Climax:

Resolution:

Literary Elements (Element and Use in the Story):

(1)

(2)

Literature Organizer- Piece # 2

Title (Underlined or Quoted): _____

Author (Spelled Correctly): _____

Setting: _____

Main Characters: _____

Plot of the Story:

Conflict/Type:

Climax:

Resolution:

Literary Elements (Element and Use in the Story):

(1)

(2)

Task IV Interpreting the Critical Lens

Part of your task is to interpret a quote that is provided for you. This quote is known as the **Critical Lens**. It is very important that you correctly interpret the quote.

Before you can begin to write the essay for a Task IV, you need to know how to interpret the Critical Lens. In order to provide an interpretation of the quote, you need to ask yourself: “What does this quote mean to me?”

It is important to keep in mind that the Regents is giving you this quote because you can use it with various pieces of literature. The quotes usually have something to do with overcoming obstacles, or seeing truth as revealed in characters, or how literature can take you on great journeys. Keep this in mind when you are interpreting.

You should take the quote apart. Take a few moments to figure out what it means. Look for words that you know. Look for words that you are unsure of. Make sure that you are really reading the quote!

EXAMPLE

“...it is the human lot to try and fail.”

This quote means that it is human nature to continue to try until they succeed. **OR**
It is human nature to be unsuccessful even if people continuously attempt it.

You may have a different interpretation, and that is okay. Just make sure that you can support this interpretation with your two pieces of literature!

Please interpret the following quotes.

(1) “Well done is better than well said.”

(2) “The right good book is always a book of travel; it is about a life’s journey.”

(3) “All men make mistakes, but only wise men learn from their mistakes.”

(4) “Things can happen in some cities and the tale of them will be interesting; the same story laid in another city would be ridiculous.”

(5) “Some people think it's holding on that makes one strong - sometimes it's letting go.”

Task IV Introduction

When you are writing your introduction for your Task IV, remember:

ROIL TAG Thesis

Restate the quote word for word; include the person who said the quote.

Opinion*- Is it a valid or invalid quote? No “I think” or first person! Pick one side!

Interpret*- What does this quote mean to you?

List the Literature- Find **two pieces** that will connect to your interpretation of the quote.

Title of BOTH pieces of literature

Author of BOTH pieces of literature

Genre of BOTH pieces of literature

Thesis- Both of these stories show...

* “O” and “I” can be switched. You can interpret, and then give your opinion.

All of this information should be in your introduction. You really don’t need to go into detail yet. This is why you have body paragraphs!

Follow these steps to a solid introduction! **Note: Sentence 2 and 3 can be switched.**

- 1.) You should begin your introduction by restating the quote and citing the author.
- 2.) Your second sentence should be your opinion of the quote. **However, you should avoid using the word “I.”** You could use these words: valid, invalid, proves true, proves false, etc. For example, “This is a valid quote.” Or you could say, “This quote proves to be false.”
- 3.) Your third sentence should be your interpretation of the quote. This sentence should begin like: “The quote means that...(fill in the blank).” You would put the quote into your own words. What does this quote mean to you? Make sure that you are agreeing with your own opinion!
- 4.) Your fourth sentence should include your TAG. For example, your sentence may look something like this:

The quote by (author) can be proven true/false (pick one) through the novel (literary work) TITLE by AUTHOR of literary work #1 and by the novel (literary work) TITLE by AUTHOR of literary work #2.

Be sure to properly punctuate your titles! Novels and long works are underlined; short works get quotes!

- 5.) Your last sentence should be your THESIS statement. Your thesis statement should be what the whole essay is about, connecting the major themes of BOTH pieces of literature. It might have some similarities to your interpretation.

Critical Lens- “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

Strength to Love, 1963.

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” This is a valid quote. This quote means that people are judged by being active and standing up for what is right in times of struggle. This quote by Martin Luther King, Jr. can be proven true through the novel To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee and Night by Elie Wiesel. Both of these stories show how important it is to stand up for what is right, even if it means a person stands alone.

Critical Lens- “The opposite of love is not hate, it is indifference.”

[illegible]

Task IV Body Paragraphs

Your body paragraphs are in your essay to explain your interpretation of the Critical Lens. In your body paragraphs you should also include literary elements/devices that connect your interpretation of the quote to your pieces of literature. It is suggested that you use at least ONE literary element. There are two spaces on your information sheet; however, you need to use only one. It is good to know at least two just in case one works better with the quote you have.

It is a good idea to have two separate body paragraphs for each piece of literature!

- ✓ Your first sentence should include a TAG and the fact that it supports or doesn't support the quote
Ex. The novel To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee supports the quote by Martin Luther King, Jr.
- ✓ This first sentence is also known as your topic sentence. I should be able to tell from this sentence what your paragraph is going to be about.

Unfortunately, you will not be able to use this packet when you are actually writing your essay for the final exam. You need to know these two pieces of literature inside and out! Make sure that you are also very familiar with the literary devices you intend on using to prove your interpretation of the quote!

HINT: If you are forgetting which literary elements to use, look at the **Guidelines** on your task sheet. There, you will find a few examples of which elements to use!

It is extremely important to use literary devices that will connect back with your interpretation of the quote. If you cannot do that, you might not receive the full credit you deserve! DO NOT simply list elements. That is not good! You need to explain how the element/device was used in the story and how it proves your interpretation.

Task IV Conclusion

Conclusions are often the most difficult things to write for the essay. By the time you get to your conclusion, you are tired of writing, and you just want the essay to be complete! It is perfectly natural to feel this way; however, you must press on! Your conclusion is the last thing people are going to read! It's the last thing they will remember. You should put just as much effort into your conclusion as you do for the rest of your essay!

I often like to think of the conclusion and compare it to the end of a television show. Think about a television show's ending. I like to use *Full House* as my example. You know that when that soft music comes on, and Uncle Jesse or Danny Tanner comes to sit down with DJ, Stephanie, or Michelle, they are going to learn a great lesson. This part of the show is supposed to make the viewer (you) feel all warm inside! You are supposed to be a better person because you learned a lesson from someone else's mistake! This is how you should treat your conclusion!

A conclusion should not repeat your introduction. It should also NEVER begin with "In conclusion" or "Ultimately"! That shows little creativity, and your sentence will still make sense even if you don't begin like that!

Ex. In conclusion, all people can learn from what Martin Luther King Jr. has said. People should learn to take advantage of opportunities to do great things.

The sentence would still make sense WITHOUT "In conclusion"! Take it out! I promise, you can write a conclusion without that phrase!

Ex. All people can learn from what Martin Luther King Jr. has said. People should learn to take advantage of opportunities to do great things.

You can then finish your conclusion by explaining how the reader should learn from the quote and the two pieces of literature. A really nice thing to add into a conclusion that you could use almost every time is this:

Literature allows people to learn life's hard lessons without actually getting hurt or having to experience it for themselves.

This line (or any variation of it) can really help tie up loose ends. The Task IV is not going to change in format any time soon. You can use this line with any quote that is thrown at you!

Introduction

R-
O-
I-
L-
T-
A-
G-

Thesis-

Body 1: Book 1

Title-

Author-

Literary Element-

Body 2: Book 2

Title-

Author-

Literary Element-

Body 3 (Optional): How are these two books linked to the quote? Or use this paragraph to discuss literary elements from both books. Then don't write about the elements in Body 1 or Body 2 if you use this option.

Conclusion: No "In conclusion" or "Ultimately"