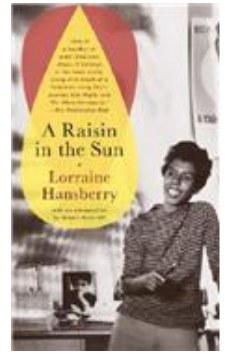


Essay Topics and Schedule for *A Raisin in the Sun*

- Receive topics, discuss, choose, plan, and outline, and search for a minimum of 2 quotes per body paragraph.
- Produce an introduction and **outline in class finding quotes per body paragraph**
- Draft your body paragraphs
- Finish the essay, your very last essay, **in class**. Return your copy of the play.



In 1959, Lorraine Hansberry's play, *A Raisin in the Sun*, debuted on Broadway. Although her play broke new ground and became a significant milestone in American literature, the play remains memorable because it captures the universal quests for the American Dream from an individual perspective and from the family perspective.

Essay topics include the following:

1. Choose any **three symbols** and show what each of these symbols represents for each character and that character's dream. Consider the following symbols: Mama's plant, Beneatha's African connections (her African robe, African name, and new hairstyle), Walter's liquor store plans, and the Younger Family's home in Clybourne Park
2. Choose any **three major characters** from the play and explain what each one's individual original dream was, why the dream had been deferred, and how the dream was altered.
3. Several **minor characters** have major impact on the story. Though many of the characters are somewhat stereotyped, each serves an important function within the play. Choose three minor characters explaining their significance as far as character development, plot complications, and/or thematic emphasis. Consider the following minor characters; George Murchison, Joseph Asagai, the neighbor, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Karl Linder, and/or Willy Harris.
4. Explain how Walter Lee Younger is representative of an essential **anti-hero** given his dire situation, negative behaviors and choices, and triumphant decisions and impact.
5. Examine **the three women** of Walter Lee Younger's world: his sister, his wife, and his mother. Show how each of these women shape Walter's relationships, actions, and values.

A Raisin in the Sun analytical expository essay rubric

Student Name: _____ Date _____ Class section _____

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Introduction (Organization) 10%	The introduction begins generally, introduces the topic, summarizes briefly, includes title and author, and uses approved thesis. 10-9 points	The introduction includes most of the essential elements, but may not begin generally enough or prepare the reader for paper. 8-7 points	The introduction states the main topic, but does not adequately preview the structure of the paper nor is it particularly inviting to the reader. 6-5 points	There is no clear introduction of the main topic or structure of the paper. 4-0 points
Ideas 60%	Each paragraph maintains a topic sentence, <u>at least three points</u> , and 2 relevant quotations , as well as a conclusion sentence. 40-36 points	Most of the paragraphs maintain a clear topic sentence, 3 supporting ideas, 1 relevant quotes, and a conclusion sentence. 35-31 points	Supporting details and information but several key issues or too few relevant quotes . 30-26 points	Supporting details and information are typically unclear or not related to the topic . 25-21 points
Conclusion (Organization) 10%	The conclusion is strong and leaves the readers with a feeling that they understand what the writer is "getting at." 10-9 points	The conclusion is recognizable and ties up almost all the loose ends. 8-7 points	The conclusion is recognizable, but does not tie up several loose ends. 6-5 points	There is no clear conclusion, the paper just ends. 4-0 points
Grammar & Spelling (Conventions) 20%	Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. 20-19 points	Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. 18-17 points	Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. 16-15 points	Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. 14-0 points

Comments and/or suggestions: