

Student's Full Name

Teacher's Title and Last Name

Class and Period #

Day Month Year

Every Essay's Title is Centered & Capitalized

The introduction to your literary analysis should capture your reader's interest. To bring immediate focus to your subject, you may want to use a quotation, a provocative question, a brief anecdote, a startling statement, or a combination of these. You may also want to include background information or context that is relevant to your thesis and necessary for the reader to understand the claim you are making. In addition, you need to include the title of the works of literature and names of the authors. The last sentence of your introduction should be a thesis statement that tells your reader what to expect: it is a restricted, precisely worded declarative sentence that states the purpose of your essay or the point you are trying to make.

The first line of each of your body paragraphs should be a topic sentence, which states how it will be associated with your thesis and how the topic will support the central idea. Good literary analysis essays contain an explanation of your ideas and evidence from the text that supports those ideas. Textual evidence consists of summary, paraphrase, specific details, and direct quotations. As with all the textual evidence you use, make sure you explain how the evidence is relevant—let the reader know why the quotes you cite are significant to your claim.

The first line of each new paragraph should be indented in MLA format. The entire paper should be double-spaced with no extra spaces. The substance of each of

your developmental paragraphs (the body of your essay) will be the explanations, summaries, paraphrases, specific details, and direct quotations you need to support and develop the more general statement you have made in your topic sentence (the first sentence of your developmental paragraph). The skillful use of textual evidence can illustrate and support the ideas you are developing in your essay. Textual evidence should only be used when it directly relates to your topic. The correct and effective use of textual evidence is vital to the successful literary analysis essay.

In this literary analysis, your first body paragraph will support your thesis with textual evidence from *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, the second will support your claim from your graphic novel, and this paragraph, the third one, will provide credibility from another piece of literature of your choice. This kind of writing demands tight organization and control; everything in it must be directly related to the central idea and contribute to the reader's understanding of that central idea. It must have several paragraphs that grow systematically out of the central idea and become developed through the use of quotations, summary, details, and explanation to support the topic sentence, and it relates back to the thesis statement.

Your literary analysis essay should have a concluding paragraph that gives your essay a sense of completeness and lets your readers know that they have come to the end of your paper. Your concluding paragraph might restate the thesis in different words, summarize the main points you have made, and/or make a relevant comment about the literary works you are analyzing but from a different perspective. You should not introduce a new topic in your conclusion, but you should have between 750-1000 words for this literary analysis essay. This example one is only 567.

Works Cited

Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. Little, Brown and Company, 2007.

Your Last Name, Your First Name. *The Title of Your Graphic Novel*. New West Charter Middle School, 2018.

MLA Works Cited Page: Basic Format

SUMMARY:

MLA (Modern Language Association) style is most commonly used to write papers and cite sources within the liberal arts and humanities. According to MLA style, you must have a Works Cited page at the end of your paper. All entries in the Works Cited page must correspond to the works cited in your main text.

BASIC RULES:

- Begin your Works Cited page on a separate page at the end of your paper. It should have the same one-inch margins and last name, page number header as the rest of your paper.
 - Label the page Works Cited (*do not italicize the words Works Cited or put them in quotation marks*) and center the words Works Cited at the top of the page.
 - Double space all citations, but do not skip spaces between entries.
 - Indent the second and subsequent lines of citations by 0.5 inches to create a hanging indent.
 - All works cited entries end with a period.
 - Capitalize each word in the titles of articles, books, etc, but do not capitalize articles (the, an), prepositions, or conjunctions unless one is the first word of the title or subtitle. Ex: Gone with the Wind, The Art of War
 - Use italics (instead of underlining) for titles of larger works (books, magazines) and quotation marks for titles of shorter works (poems, articles)
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Below is the general format for any citation:

Author. Title. Title of container (self contained if book), Other contributors (translators or editors), Version (edition), Number (vol. and/or no.), Publisher, Publication Date, Location (pages, paragraphs URL or DOI). 2nd container's title, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location, Date of Access (if applicable).

Below is the general format for a basic book:

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.

**Note: the City of Publication should also be used if the book was published before 1900, it has offices in more than one country, or it is unknown in North America.*

RESOURCES:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html

<https://tinyurl.com/mlaformatforbeginners>