You will write an 800-1000 word literary essay examining elements of Daniel Quinn’s *Ishmael*. You will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the literary essay form and style.

You may choose to write either an **argumentative essay** analyzing the novel or an **expository essay** outlining an element of the novel.

**STEP ONE: TOPIC**

Choose a topic. Come up with something that is interesting to you or that you know something about, if possible.

1. Outline Quinn’s position on leaver and taker cultures. Is he right? Is one more sustainable than the other?
2. Analyze and argue for or against four major points from the novel.
3. Compare and contrast human nature with the rest of nature. What is Quinn suggesting about humanity?
4. Provide an analysis of or an argument about the use of religion in *Ishmael*. Do our own stories provide an answer for how things came to be?
5. A relevant topic of your choice based on the novel

**1. LITERARY ESSAY BASICS**

* Use elements of the novel to support your argument/analysis. You will critically “pick apart” the novel and provide your own connections/explanations.
* Understand how to use direct quotes/paraphrasing effectively
* Secondary sources, (quotes/ideas from outside your “primary” source – the novel) can be used
* This site: <https://sites.google.com/site/fungeng4u/tips-for-writing-a-literary-analysis-essay> is handy!

**2. OUTLINING AND ROUGH COPIES**

* I will not be evaluating outlines or rough copies but I encourage you to do some planning. You should have annotated your copy of *Ishmael* to assist you for this assignment. I am more than happy to conference with you as you plan and write.

**SUCCESS CRITERIA:**

[ ] I will write an argumentative or expository essay on a topic related to *Ishmael*

[ ] I will demonstrate knowledge of a literary analysis

[ ] I will create a clear thesis following the expectations of a literary essay

[ ] I will research information to create effective support that supports my thesis

[ ] I will ensure the essay connects to a “so what” explanation of why/how the information is important

[ ] I will use formal style

[ ] I will use MLA style, including a works cited page for both primary and secondary sources

**[ ] I will include the rubric with my submission (COPY AND PASTE IF SENDING ELECTRONICALLY)**

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**RUBRIC:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ESSAY ELEMENT** | **LEVEL 0:Element Missing** | **LEVEL 1:Below Expectations** | **LEVEL 2:Approaching Expectations** | **LEVEL 3:Meets Expectations** | **LEVEL 4:Above Expectations** |
| **Knowledge of specific essay form, including purpose of essay** | This element has not been included | The specific essay form is not clearly demonstrated | Some aspects of the essay form have been demonstrated | The essay form has been effectively demonstrated | The essay form goes beyond expectations in its awesomeness |
| **Essay has a clear and effective main idea/thesis** | This element has not been included | The main idea/thesis does not meet expectations | The main idea/thesis is close to expectations | The main idea/thesis meets expectations | The main idea/thesis is above expectations |
| **Writing style is appropriate for essay (e.g. formal or informal)** | This element has not been included | The writing style is not appropriate for the essay type | The writing style is sometimes appropriate for the essay type | The writing style is usually appropriate for the essay type | The writing style is always very appropriate for the essay type |
| **Arguments are effectively supported with clear and specific information** | This element has not been included | Arguments are not effectively supported with clear/specific information | Arguments are sometimes supported with clear/specific information | Arguments are usually supported with clear/specific information | Arguments are always supported with clear/specific information |
| **Support is clearly explained to show why/how it is important and/or relevant** | This element has not been included | The essay rarely includes explanations connected to the support | The essay sometimes includes explanations connected to the support | The essay usually includes explanations connected to the support | The essay always includes explanations connected to the support |
| **Information in the essay is organized and clear, with logical connections and transitions between paragraphs** | This element has not been included | The essay is poorly organized and is missing flow | The essay has some organization or flow | The essay usually has organization and flow | The essay has excellent organization and flow |
| **The essay is edited for spelling and grammar, as well as MLA/APA format expectations** | This element has not been included | The essay has limited editing and formatting per expectations | The essay has some editing and formatting per expectations | Most of the essay has been edited and formatted per expectations | All of the essay has been edited and formatted per expectations |

**OVERALL LEVEL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_%**

**COMMENTS & FEEDBACK**