

Objectives: This essay option is more structured and aims more directly at practicing specific writing skills that will figure prominently on the state writing test in early April.

Assignment: type an original three-page essay on *The Great Gatsby* that answers the question:
Who is primarily responsible for Gatsby's death?

1. Complete preliminary pre-writing activities in class

2. Specific requirements for the final essay's content:

- *In your Intro:*
 - lead in by discussing the book's theme of ambiguity
 - segue into your topic / thesis
 - directly name who, in your opinion, is chiefly responsible for Gatsby's death
 - mention and briefly discuss the main reasons you believe so
 - also address, very briefly, who or what else you'll discuss in the essay
 - wrap-up and close off your intro; then transition into the first body paragraph
- *In your Body:*
 - have 3-4 ¶'s on who is chiefly responsible**
 - ** please try to make these three 'reasons' sequential in logic, and not interchangeable as they would be in a weak 5¶- essay format essay
 - have 2-3 other ¶'s discussing other characters or other issues, including making at least one **concession** to a differing opinion about who is most responsible
- *In your Conclusion: wrap up but don't create redundancy*

Additional Requirements:

- use at least 7 quotes in the essay, incorporated according to the rules covered in class
- do not plagiarize; do not use the internet in any way in conjunction with this essay; the penalty for plagiarism is a zero

Specific formatting requirements: your final draft must be the following:

- typed, double spaced
- 12 point font, standard font style (Times, Times New Roman, Ariel, Courier, etc)
- no formatting tricks (margins, double- space between paragraphs, etc etc)
- your essay **must** use a creative title

Objective: This essay option is more focused on specific literary analysis, and how Fitzgerald structures this most complex book.

Assignment: type an original essay on how a significant motif functions in *The Great Gatsby*.

Premise: Fitzgerald is a master of the significant motif. From water to color to dust to eyes to houses to alcohol to boats to geography to time and clocks to parties to photographs to birth to death, there's a ton going on *within* the story.

Process:

1. Pick one motif to focus on.
2. Brainstorm at least 6 substantial occurrences of / places where / ways that the motif is important within the story, and on separate paper, write each one out.
3. For each of the six, freewrite a literal 5 minutes / paragraph about how it's used, why it's important, and/or how it connects to other things in the passage and/or book, including symbolism, character, foreshadowing, setting, and / or theme.
4. After you've done all 6, pick the 4-5 *best* occurrences and mini-analyses to use in your essay.
5. Write a 7-8 paragraph essay:
 - a. an introduction
 - b. 4-5 body paragraphs, each one focused on how the motif works in a specific, particular place or way
 - c. 1-2 paragraphs summarizing the theme(s) that the motif develops and conveys
 - d. a conclusion that avoids redundancy
6. Each body paragraph must include 1-2 quotes incorporated according to the rules we have covered in class
7. Stay off the internet.
8. Stay off the internet.

Specific formatting requirements: your final draft must be the following:

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- no formatting tricks (margins, double- space between paragraphs, etc etc)
- your essay **must** use a creative title