

CPN 101 Analysis Essay (Essay #1) Fall 2007

Essay #1 (Analysis Essay): Source: "Against Nature" (Oates); 4-5 pages, MLA documentation.
(save this assignment sheet in your essay folder; refer to it often)

Analyze (take apart in an organized fashion) "Against Nature" by Joyce Carol Oates, paying close attention to style, content, and tone; and explain how the essay is constructed. Then evaluate, considering the essay's impact upon its audience, its attention to or swerving from conventions of essay-writing, the effectiveness of its construction, and how the structure and content test or challenge our assumptions about nature.

Your essay will be focused on three primary elements:

1. **What the author says** (the facts of the text, in sequence: first, next, then);
2. **How the author expresses her ideas** (style, content, tone). Consider rhetorical devices: logic, emotional appeals, ethical appeals, use of facts, personal experience, historical allusions, metaphors, quotes by authorities, literary allusions, figures of speech, (Troyka, Chap. 5);
3. **How Well the author expresses her ideas** (evaluative part of essay), indicating your objectivity in assessing the merits of the text as by using terms like: fair/unfair; adequate/inadequate; sufficient/insufficient; effective/ineffective. This should be organized by rhetorical devices that you choose which are relevant to your evaluation based on the book's content.

Start by presenting an overall summary of Oates' essay. Your summary will capture the essence of the essay and its most important contents, and will contain no quotes or evaluative assessment.

Create a thesis that presents to the reader the intentions of your analysis (express your rhetorical purpose and refer to--or lead to--your principles of analysis--the criteria by which you will analyze the essay).

Then, in a systematic, organized, and objective fashion, and following your principles of analysis, dissect the essay. It will be your choice whether you evaluate this text as you analyze it, or whether you make your evaluation separate from the analysis.

Your essay's body paragraphs will relate to, and expand upon, the thesis and be controlled by your principles of analysis. The topic sentence of each body paragraph will identify and direct the content of that paragraph.

This analysis requires that as you refer to specific sections of the text, whether for paraphrase, summary, or direct quote. Use signal phrases and in-text citations (MLA format). Your typed essay should be around 4-5 pages long. Give page citations using MLA style; that is, the page reference is placed in parentheses (see Troyka and *Cortland Composition Handbook*).

Suggested Schedule Assigned: Tues., Sept 4.

_____ Annotations **Tues. Sept 11.**

_____ Outline, thesis, summary, and MLA reference page with notes in folder **Tues, Sept. 18**

_____ 1st Draft in folder with notes and outline: **Tues., Sept. 25**

_____ 2nd Draft with all other materials in folder: **Tues., Oct. 2**

_____ Submission Draft with all previous materials due in class: Tues., Oct. 9

The submission folder (a plain top-tabbed manila folder) will include this assignment page, substantial notes, outline, and two drafts, with the submission draft on top. You will also submit a copy of the final draft as contents of the trial portfolio. The portfolio submission--also in a tabbed folder--is separate and will follow procedures and terms of the midterm portfolio checklist in *Cortland Composition Handbook*.

I will not accept a portfolio that does not follow all elements of the checklist for midterm portfolios.