

Steps to writing your Critical Lens

Opening Paragraph:

1. State the quote and the author of said quote.
2. Explain the quote in your own words.
3. State if this statement is true or false in relation to the two books you will be discussing.
4. State the two books and the authors that you will be using to prove the lens true or false.

Example:

Human beings, and society as a whole, can sometimes be seen as too complacent. People will sometimes stand by and do nothing as events and occurrences happen all around them. Some would say that it is easier to stand by and let others deal with these problems, but Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would argue otherwise. King is quoted as saying, “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” King’s statement rings with the tone of human resistance. Human beings must take a stand, despite the fact that it will make them step outside their usual comfort zone, so that they can truly show what they are made of. This quote is undeniably true, and it is especially true (whether it be in a negative light or not) in George Orwell’s 1984 and Butterfly Revolution by William Buttler. Both Orwell and Buttler seamlessly weave King’s ideal into their novels through characterization, themes and their individual settings.

Body Paragraphs (these are examples using the above opening):

1. Body paragraph one: Talk about characterization in the first novel. Use three examples
2. Body Paragraph two: Talk about characterization in the second novel. Use three examples
3. Body Paragraph three: Talk about theme in the first novel. Use three examples
4. Body Paragraph four: Talk about theme in the second novel. Use three examples
5. Body Paragraph five: Talk about setting in the first novel. Use three examples
6. Body Paragraph six: Talk about setting in the second novel. Use three examples

REMEMBER! Do NOT summarize the novel in these paragraphs!

Closing Paragraph:

1. Restate quote
2. Wrap up argument

Example:

Standing up in the face of adversity is perhaps one of the hardest things for humans to do. To face the unknown, the cruel, or the seemingly impossible is daunting, but essential for human growth. Martin Luther King Jr. saw this when he declared, “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” To rise up against adversity, such as how Orwell and Buttler portrayed within their novels, is perhaps what more people need to do if we are to advance as a species.

Novels and Authors:

1. To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Characters: Scout, Jem, Atticus, Bob Ewell, Mayella Ewell, Tom Robinson
2. Animal Farm by George Orwell
Characters: Napoleon, Snowball, Boxer, Benjamin, Mr. Jones
3. The Butterfly Revolution by William Buttler
Characters: Win, Frank, Don, Runk
4. Ordinary People by Judith Guest
Characters: Con (Conrad), Beth, Cal (Calvin)
5. Maus by Art Spiegelman
Characters: Art, Vladek
6. Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
Characters: John the Savage, Bernard Marx, Lenina Crowne
7. The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
Characters: Bilbo Baggins, Gandalf, Thorin