

Eng 2: Unit 1 *Dracula* Essay (100 pts.)

Essay w/ draft and research for peer review: Thurs., Sept. 7

Final version: Tues., Sept. 12

You will write a short essay that argues one of two viewpoints about *Dracula*: You can choose to argue Suzannah Clements' contention that Bram Stoker's novel *Dracula* "is an explicitly Christian novel," or you can argue Christopher Bentley's belief that "*Dracula* is primarily a novel of psychosexual desires and symbols." Which argument is valid and why?



While your 500-word essay should include a thesis that takes a stand within the first few paragraphs, it also should include a counter-argument from the other reading to reflect critical thinking. If you argue Clements' claim is correct, you would use Bentley's chapter, "The Monster in the Bedroom," as your counter-argument. (Bentley's chapter is posted on the website.) If you argue Bentley, Clements is your counter-argument.

This essay will have a total of three sources:

- 1) A passage from Clements' in *The Vampire Defanged*.
- 2) A passage from Bentley in "The Monster in the Bedroom."
- 3) A passage from *The Essential Dracula*.

You may use only brief citations from these sources, with each citation only one complete sentence. Additional sources can't be used in this essay.

Part of the challenge of this essay is its short length: You have a limited number of words to make your argument and connect this to an opposing viewpoint that you explore before coming back to your thesis. Do not repeat the question. Instead, use the HIT formula and start with a creative beginning. We encourage creative beginnings that take an innovative approach to your topic.

You should read Clements and Bentley carefully and select the passages you wish to use before deciding a thesis. Keep an open mind since it is the research or passages that you select, and not your personal opinion, that determines a thesis in an academic paper.

Draft: You are required to write at least one complete draft of your essay that shows substantial corrections you have made on it as a result of editing and proofing. Your draft can be handwritten or typed. Your revised version should be typed in 12-pt. Times in MLA format. It should include an original title and a Works Cited page as part of the document. For both due dates, the revised draft(s) and typed version should be turned in together in an envelope at the start of class.

Late work costs you points: Following peer review, the final version should be submitted to Turnitin by 12:30 p.m. on the date due. Late work loses points (refer to late work policies in Class Guidelines).

In-text citations: You should use a total of three brief paraphrases or quotes in the essay or one citation per source. Introduce your source by title and author with a signal phrase that explains what the reading is about before you quote from it. Paraphrases and quotes should be used in context for accuracy. When you do quote or paraphrase, each citation should be no longer than one sentence.

Using only quotes, using fewer or more citations, not using signal phrases, or using citations longer than a brief sentence will cost you points since most of your paper should reflect your thinking and analysis.

Required research that you turn in with drafts and the essay:

1) From *The Vampire Defanged*:

- A photocopy of the page you wish to cite with the passage highlighted so we can find the paraphrase or quote easily.

2) From "The Monster in the Bedroom":

- A photocopy of the page you wish to cite with the passage highlighted so we can find the paraphrase or quote easily.

3) From *The Essential Dracula*:

- A photocopy of the page you wish to cite with the passage highlighted so we can find the paraphrase or quote easily.

Peer Review: You will have the chance to revise your essay following peer review of your research and paper before turning it in to us and to Turnitin. For peer review, please bring the corrected draft of your essay, a typed copy of your revised essay, and the required research in a large envelope.

Length: Essays that exceed 550 words or that are less than 500 words, not counting the Works Cited page, lose points. Please include a word count at the end of your essay that does not include the Works Cited entries.

MLA: We recommend using Barbara Fister's *Quick Reference: Working With Sources: Using MLA, Eighth Edition Style* published by Bedford/St. Martin's, 2016. ISBN: 9781319088354.

Plagiarism: Essays with plagiarism may result in a failing grade on the assignment and being reported to BC administration.

Need Help?: See Brian Melgar, our intrepid Eng 2 class tutor. He survived Eng 2 and can offer you valuable research and writing tips.



Unit 1: *Dracula* Paper (300 pts.)

Paper w/ draft and research for peer review: Thurs., Sept. 21
Final version: Tues., Sept. 26

You will write a 1,500-word argumentative paper examining *Dracula*. It is up to you to select your own topic and come up with an argument about it that is supported by research. You can't write on the same topic that you chose for your essay; your essay and paper topics must differ and use different sources. This means you can't use Suzannah Clements or Christopher Bentley in this paper for your argument or counter-argument.

This paper will have a total of five sources:

- 1) Passages from two articles from scholarly, peer-reviewed journals that you have found through the Bakersfield College library's online databases.
- 2) A passage from *The Essential Dracula*.
- 3) Two passages from two other sources that you choose from the class readings or handouts. You also have the option of including a citation from Leonard Wolf's notes from *The Essential Dracula* instead of one of the class readings.

You may use only brief citations from these sources, with each citation only one complete sentence. Additional sources can't be used in this paper.

While your paper should include a thesis that takes a stand within the first few paragraphs, it also should include a counter-argument that reflects critical thinking. Try to go beyond the obvious when you consider possible connections. Use the HIT formula and start with a creative beginning, since we encourage creative beginnings that take an innovative approach to your topic.

The most challenging part of this assignment is thinking about possible connections among scholarly sources found through the BC library, the novel, and the assigned readings.

You should find the library research and select the readings carefully before deciding your topic and thesis. Keep an open mind since it is the research or passages that you select, and not your personal opinion, that determines a thesis or argument in an academic paper.

The best way to approach this paper is to carefully review your notes from the readings and class discussion and write down possible ideas, connections, and counter-arguments before heading to the library. Consider possible key words to search for as you look for scholarly articles.

You should discuss sources as examples that briefly illustrate your thesis and counter-argument. While a brief summation may be needed, citing only key ideas avoids restating all the facts you have read.

BC library research: You will find two articles from scholarly, peer reviewed journals from the library's online databases. You should not use articles (even ones that appear in peer-reviewed journals) that are opinion pieces with no bibliographic references throughout the article and/or at the end, such as a first-person column or story, an unsigned editorial, a letter to the editor, or a book or movie review. You also should not cite abstracts, which are summaries of articles, in your paper. Instead, cite a passage from the article itself. Your scholarly, peer-reviewed articles must come from the BC library; sources found elsewhere are not acceptable.

Draft: You are required to write at least one complete draft of your paper that shows substantial corrections you have made on it as a result of editing and proofing. Your draft can be handwritten or typed. Your revised version should be typed in 12-pt. Times in MLA format. It should include an original title and a Works Cited page as part of the document. For both due dates, the revised draft(s) and typed version should be turned in together in an envelope at the start of class.

Late work costs you points: Following peer review, the final version should be submitted to Turnitin by 12:30 p.m. on the date due. Late work loses points (refer to late work policies in Class Guidelines).

In-text citations: You should use a total of five brief citations or one citation per source. Two citations should be paraphrases and the other three citations should be quotes. Introduce your source by title and author with a signal phrase that explains what the article is about before you quote from it. Paraphrases and quotes should be used in context for accuracy. When you do quote or paraphrase, each citation should be no longer than one sentence.

Using only quotes, using fewer or more citations, not using signal phrases, or using citations longer than a brief sentence will cost you points since most of your paper should reflect your thinking and analysis.

Required research that you turn in with drafts and the paper:

- 1) For each of the two articles from scholarly, peer-reviewed journals found through BC library databases:
 - A copy of the first page and relevant pages of each article with the passages you are citing highlighted so we can find these easily. Each source should have only one passage highlighted.
 - The citation of your source as printed from the BC library's database. Please note that this is not the MLA citation, but the bibliographic information for your source as it appears in the library. (By the way, some of the suggested MLA formats found at the end of online articles are incorrect. Double-check your MLA format using the recommended MLA guide.)
- 2) From *The Essential Dracula*:
 - A photocopy of the page you wish to cite from with the passage highlighted so we can find the paraphrase or quote easily.
- 3) From two other sources from the class readings or handouts:
 - You should turn in a copy of the relevant pages of each assigned reading with the passage highlighted so we can find your paraphrase or quote easily.

Peer Review: You will have the chance to revise your work following peer review of your research and paper before turning it in to us and to Turnitin. For peer review, please bring the corrected draft of your paper, a typed copy of your revised paper, and the required research in a large envelope.

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