

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

Essay w/ draft and research for peer review: Thurs., Feb. 1
Final version: Tues., Feb. 6

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.