



**Eng 2: Units 4 & 5:  
Dead Until Dark, True Blood, and Twilight Essay  
(100 pts.)**

Essay w/ draft and research for peer review: Tues., Nov. 28  
Final version: Thurs., Nov. 30

You will write a short, argumentative essay examining any of the issues discussed in our readings or film clips during Units 4 and 5, which center on Charlaine Harris' novel, *Dead Until Dark*, the HBO series, *True Blood*, and the movie *Twilight*. It is up to you to select your own topic and come up with an argument that is supported by research.

This essay will have a total of three sources:

- 1) A passage from a scholarly source found through the Bakersfield College library.
- 2) A passage from *Dead Until Dark*.
- 3) A description of a scene from either *Twilight* or *True Blood* that is shown in class or a passage from a class reading you have not used before. You are required to turn in your notes from *Twilight* or *True Blood* with the scenes highlighted that you chose to cite.

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.

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 that reflects critical thinking. Part of the challenge of this assignment 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. Start with the HIT formula (hook, information, thesis) and try a creative innovative approach to your topic.

Students should select the library research carefully before deciding their argument. 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. You may use only brief citations from these three sources, with each citation only one complete sentence. Additional sources are not acceptable.

**BC library research:** For your research, your scholarly source may include a scholarly peer-reviewed article found through the library's online databases, a specialized encyclopedia, a book, a book on reserve, or an e-book. You should not use articles (even ones that appear in peer-reviewed journals) that are opinion pieces with no bibliographic references at the end, such as a first-person column or story, an unsigned editorial, definitions from encyclopedias, a letter to the editor, or a book or movie review. You also should not cite abstracts, which are summaries of research, or extremely short, "research-lite" sources. Your scholarly peer-reviewed source 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 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) For the BC library scholarly source:

- A copy of the first page and relevant pages of the article or source with the passage you are citing highlighted so we can find it easily. The 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 your guides.)

2) From *Dead Until Dark*:

- You should turn in a copy of the relevant pages with the passage you are citing highlighted so we can find your paraphrase or quote easily.)

3) A description of scene from either *Twilight* or *True Blood* that is shown in class or a passage from a class reading:

- You should turn in your notes from *Twilight* or *True Blood* with the scene you discuss highlighted so we can find it easily.

or from the class reading:

- You should turn in a copy of the relevant pages with the passage you are citing highlighted so we can find your paraphrase or quote easily.

**Peer Review:** You will have the chance to revise your essay following peer review of your research and essay 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 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.