

Model Outline for the Critical Lens Assignment

You don't need to follow this structure! But it may help if you're trying to figure out how to organize your paper

1. Introduction
 - a. Briefly introduce the lens text
 - b. Briefly introduce *how* you will use the critical lens to look at your target. What's your focus? What lens will you be looking through? This often takes the form of a specific quotation from the lens text that you think communicates the overall theme.
 - c. Tell your reader something about what we can learn from putting the lens and target into conversation with each other.
 - i. You might use a formula like: The lens text states "X," which is illustrated by "Y" in the target text. The example from the target text extends/contradicts/redefines/supports etc. the lens text.
2. Interpretation of the Lens
 - a. Explain the meaning of the critical lens being used
 - b. Provide an interpretation of the quote, statement, or theme
 - c. Use examples from the lens text to support the interpretation of the lens
 - d. This might also be a good place to provide context on the lens
3. Analysis of the Target Text
 - a. Introduce the target text through the critical lens. You'll often start this with a comparative topic sentence, kind of like a thesis statement.
 - b. Identify and explain corresponding themes in the target text.
 - c. Use evidence from the lens text to support arguments
 - d. In your topic sentence and throughout this section, you again might use formulas like: The lens text states "X" (interpret and explain the point), which is illustrated by "Y" (a specific example that you interpret and explain) in the target text. The example from the target text extends/contradicts/redefines/supports etc. the lens text.
4. Evaluation: What Have We Learned from Putting Lens and Target into Conversation?
 - a. Expand on your thesis statement: how does one text extend, contradict, redefine, and/or support the other?
 - b. Do you have questions or criticisms of the lens text that the target brings to light?
 - c. What kinds of evaluations of the target can you make using the lens?
5. Conclusion
 - a. Summarize the main points of the essay
 - b. Restate your thesis
 - c. Provide final thoughts on the target and the critical lens

