

Literary Theory Assignment

Thus far, you have been introduced to five major modes of literary criticism: New criticism, psychoanalytic analysis, Marxist theory, feminist theory, and reader-response criticism. Using your understanding of the above, thoughtfully consider the questions below.

Questions

1. Compare and contrast your understanding of any two forms of literary criticism. In your answer, you must go beyond the basics (ie. founders, chronology) and investigate how meaning is created, what each theory values, and where the locus of meaning is found.
2. Perform a formal analysis of *The Snob* using the literary theory of your choice. In your analysis, begin by defending your choice of literary theory; explain what this critical approach emphasizes, what it deemphasizes, and where it locates meaning within the text. What meaning is uncovered through this lens that may otherwise go unnoticed? Additionally, consider what limitations emerge from interpreting the text primarily through this theoretical framework.

Requirements

Question 1

- Write **150–250 words**.
- Compare **two** literary theories.
- Explain how each theory creates meaning, what each theory values, and where each locates meaning.

Question 2

- Write **150–250 words**.
- Analyze **The Snob** using **one** literary theory.
- Defend your choice of literary theory before beginning your analysis.
- Explain what the theory emphasizes and deemphasizes.
- Discuss the meaning revealed through your chosen lens.
- Explain at least one limitation of interpreting the story primarily through that theoretical framework.
- Support your interpretation with relevant evidence from **The Snob**.

Literary Theory Assignment Rubric

Criteria	Level 1 (50–59%)	Level 2 (60–69%)	Level 3 (70–79%)	Level 4 (80–100%)	M
Understanding & Application of Literary Theory	Demonstrates limited understanding of the selected literary theories. Explanations are inaccurate, incomplete, or inconsistent.	Demonstrates some understanding of the selected literary theories. Explanations are generally accurate but may lack clarity or completeness.	Demonstrates considerable understanding of the selected literary theories. Explanations accurately describe how each theory creates meaning, what it values, and where meaning is located.	Demonstrates thorough understanding of the selected literary theories. Explanations are accurate, insightful, and demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of how literary theories interpret texts.	/5
Analysis & Interpretation	Provides limited analysis of The Snob. The chosen literary theory is applied inaccurately or superficially. Discussion of strengths or limitations is unclear.	Provides some analysis of The Snob. The literary theory is generally applied appropriately, though analysis or discussion of limitations may be inconsistent.	Provides clear analysis of The Snob. The literary theory is applied appropriately, supported with relevant explanation, and acknowledges meaningful limitations.	Provides insightful analysis of The Snob. The literary theory is applied thoughtfully and convincingly, revealing meaningful interpretations while critically evaluating the strengths and limitations of the chosen approach.	/5
Use of Textual Evidence	Uses limited or weak textual evidence. Evidence may be inaccurate, insufficient, or poorly explained.	Uses generally appropriate textual evidence. Evidence supports the interpretation, though explanations may be inconsistent or descriptive.	Uses relevant textual evidence to support the interpretation. Evidence is incorporated appropriately and clearly explained.	Uses highly effective textual evidence that is purposefully selected, seamlessly incorporated, and thoughtfully analyzed to strengthen the interpretation.	/5
Communication	Ideas are unclear or difficult to follow. Frequent errors interfere with communication. Literary vocabulary is used inconsistently.	Ideas are generally clear. Errors occasionally interfere with communication. Literary vocabulary is used appropriately but inconsistently.	Ideas are communicated clearly using appropriate literary vocabulary. Organization is logical and writing conventions are generally accurate.	Ideas are communicated clearly, fluently, and effectively using precise literary vocabulary. Organization strengthens the response, and writing conventions are consistently accurate.	/5

Total: ____ /20