

# Critical Analysis Essay Topics

---

Below you will find some suggested topics for your critical analysis essay. However, if you wish to write on a different topic, you must see me beforehand to get approval for your topic.

## “A Rose for Emily”

1. Analyze the stylistic connection (i.e., the use of horror) between the Faulkner piece and “The Lottery.”
2. Analyze the character development of Emily and that of Blanche DuBois in Tennessee William’s *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

## “Dead Men’s Path”

3. Analyze the use of dialogue in “Dead Man’s Path” to contrast Obi’s character with that of the old priest.

## “Father and I”

4. Analyze the stylistic connection (i.e., the use of light and dark) between the Lagerkvist piece and Nathaniel Hawthorne’s “Young Goodman Brown.”

## *Hamlet*

5. Analyze the thematic connection between Hamlet’s scene with Ophelia in Act III where he speaks of *honesty*, his speech to the Players on *acting*, and his speech to Horatio on *flattery*.

## “My Last Duchess”

6. Analyze the character of the Duke as portrayed in the poem “My Last Duchess” and his character in the historical novel *The Last Duchess* by Gabrielle Kimm.
7. Analyze “My Last Duchess” from a feminist perspective.

## *Oedipus Rex*

8. Analyze the thematic differences between *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles and the poem “Jocasta” by Ruth Eisenberg based on point of view.

## “Roman Fever”

9. Although written in the 1930s, “Roman Fever” is set in the 1920s. Analyze the story to determine which decade it more accurately reflects.
10. Analyze the thematic connection (i.e., gender and identity) between “Roman Fever” and Alifa Rifaat’s “Another Evening at the Club.”

## *The Book of Khalid*

11. Analyze *The Book of Khalid* as an example of “Adab Al-Mahjar” Literature.

## “The Lottery”

12. Analyze the significance of Tessie Hutchinson as a victim from a feminist perspective.
13. Analyze the thematic connection (i.e., victimization by society) between the Jackson piece and the Jonathan Swift essay “A Modest Proposal.”

## “The Metamorphosis”

14. Music is sometimes identified with the spiritual realm. On the other hand, it is often linked to the animal kingdom as something that appeals even to non-human species. Analyze how music, especially Grete’s playing the violin, functions in the story.

15. Analyze to what extent “The Metamorphosis” is part of the existentialist tradition in literature.

### **“The Story of an Hour”**

16. Analyze the thematic connection (i.e., search for identity) between Chopin’s “The Story of an Hour” and “Desiree’s Baby.”

### **“The Yellow Wall Paper”**

17. Analyze the protagonist’s descent into mental illness in “The Yellow Wall Paper.”
18. Analyze the thematic connection between “The Yellow Wall Paper” and Perkins Gilman’s autobiography *The Living of Charlotte Perkins* (1935).

### **“Young Goodman Brown”**

19. Based on Hawthorne’s protagonists Goodman Brown in “Young Goodman Brown” and the Reverend Hooper in “The Minister’s Black Veil,” analyze the thematic connection between the two stories.