

Formal Composition over *The Glass Menagerie*

Write a 3-point essay that explains and supports a thesis statement over some aspect of the play. Your thesis will be an idea or observation about the play that you believe is true and that you can explain and support.

How to plan, organize, and write your composition:

1. Choose one aspect of the play that you want to examine and write about: character(s), conflict(s), setting, dramatic atmosphere, irony, symbolism, theme, use of retrospective point of view, etc.
2. Formulate an idea that you believe you can explain and support with evidence from the play.
3. Write a simple three-point outline that will break your thesis idea into three general parts.
4. Find facts, examples, incidents, and passages in the play that will support the points you are going to make as you explain and support each part of your thesis according to your working outline.
5. Write a paragraph of introduction for your paper that leads into your thesis statement. (Include in your introduction the name of the play, author's name, general setting, major characters, and general situation.)
6. Turn each section of your working outline into a well developed paragraph that begins with a topic sentence.
7. Write a paragraph of conclusion to end your discussion and give your reader a sense of closure.
8. Your completed paper must have five paragraphs: an introduction paragraph, three main body paragraphs, and a conclusion paragraph.