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Iliad Theme Essay Writing Packet

You have read The Iliad by Homer, watched a video (Broken) and read a series of poems (“A Song of Greatness” by Mary Austin, “If” by Rudyard Kipling, “Lift Every Voice and Sing” by James Weldon Johnson, and “A Psalm of Life” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow) that all share similar themes. **Choose one of the poems listed above AND a video and compare a theme from that poem to a theme in The Iliad and write an essay that that identifies and explains a similar theme shown in each text**. Be sure to support your response with multiple pieces of evidence from all three sources.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Source** | **Theme** | **Proof** |
| **The Iliad** |  |  |
| **“A Song of Greatness”** |  |  |
| **“If”** |  |  |
| **“Lift Every Voice and Sing”** |  |  |
| **Broken (Video)** |  |  |

**PLANNING SHEET:**

An essay needs an introduction (hook, background and thesis), 3 body paragraphs (topic sentence, main points, evidence, and a conclusion sentences), and a conclusion (re-state main points and thesis and end with a bang). Use the sheet below to help you organize your essay…

Hook:

Bk:

THESIS:

TOPIC SENTENCE: Paragraph 1

TOPIC SENTENCE: Paragraph 2

TOPIC SENTENCE: Paragraph 3

Re-state main points:

Re-state thesis:

Final Thoughts:

1. **Overview**

An essay is a short composition on a particular theme or subject, usually written for the purpose of providing the reader with information.

A standard essay is made of three parts:

• **a clear introduction** with an attention-grabbing lead, background information for the reader, and a clear, concise thesis statement

• **three well-defined paragraphs**, each containing a distinct main idea and a variety of supporting details, such as quotes, statistics, interesting facts, anecdotes, or descriptions

• **a concluding paragraph** that summarizes the main ideas in a new way

1. **Introduction Paragraphs**

The introduction paragraph is made up of its own three parts:

* **a lead/hook**
* **background information;**
* **thesis statement with preview**

1. **Lead/Hook:** Your essay needs to begin with a unique lead/hook to grab your reader’s attention.

|  |  |
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| **Interesting Fact or statistic** | * During the Apollo 11 mission to the moon, the astronauts spotted a large object flying in the same direction. * Almost 75% of all UFO reports turn out to be a weather balloon, meteors, or the reflection from clouds and ice. |
| **Description or anecdote (Story) (Narrative Essay)** | The sun was warm on my back as I raced toward the waiting yellow school bus. As I nestled into the worn leather seat I was greeted by the friendly voices of other excited children. The look on my face was one of confidence and contentment. With a jerk the bus rumbled down the road and I was on my way into one of the worst days of my life. |
| **Quote** | “The recent explosion in UFO reports has more to do with the increase in UFO study groups around the country than it does with an increase in alien visitors,” said Rutkowski of Ufology Research, Manitoba. |
| **Bold Opinion** | We are not alone in the universe. |
| **Dialogue (Narrative Essay)** | “ Hurry or you’ll be late!” called my mother from the bottom of the stairs. “Today of all days you want to be on time.” If I had only know what that day would bring, I would have stayed in bed. |
| **Conflict** | "My brother and I always fight over the sports section of the newspaper. While reading the paper, I always sit with my back to a wall to avoid an unexpected attack." |
| **Mystery** | "It Is the kind of thing that no one wants yet it creeps up every week. It comes after 48 hours of unstructured free time. Its name can make people groan. Mondays have such a bad reputation." |
| **Metaphor**  **Simile**  **Personification**  **Hyperbole** | "Words are legs."  "Words are like a knife."  "Words can jump out of nowhere and change your life forever."  "Words are the greatest weapon in the universe." |
| **Bizarre Image** | "Thinking makes my brain explode into tiny robots." |
| **Countering Conventional Wisdom** | "The most important ingredient in a good pizza Is on time delivery." |

1. **Background Information:** You need to then build background knowledge for the reader, including anything s/he will need to know in order to understand your essay.
2. **Thesis Statement:** A thesis statement is a sentence that lets readers know the MAIN IDEAS of the essay. It is the LAST SENTENCE of the introduction paragraph. Everything you write in the body of your essay needs to relate back to/support your thesis statement.

**Writing an Effective Thesis Statement:**

* States an opinion or attitude
* Clearly define your main ideas.
* Make sure your readers know what your body paragraphs will be about.
* Touch once on the main idea of each body paragraph.
* Do not mention things in your thesis that are not main ideas for your body paragraphs.
* Be specific.
* Your preview needs to have three distinctly different topics.

**Sample Thesis Statements:**

* Three leaders of the American Revolutionary War that changed America forever were George Washington, Thomas Paine, and Paul Revere.
* Good readers often use thinking strategies such as making inferences, visualizing, and synthesizing.
* Love is a major theme that is presented in The Iliad and the poem, “A Song of Greatness”.
* Perseverance, in The Odyssey is symbolized by the ocean, bow, and the ship.

1. **Body Paragraphs**

The body paragraphs in your essay support your thesis statement by breaking it down into smaller ideas or subtopics. All ideas in your body paragraphs should relate back to your thesis statement.

Body Paragraph 3

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Body Paragraph 1

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Introduction &

Thesis Statement

Body Paragraph 4

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Body Paragraph 5

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Body Paragraph 2

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Your body paragraphs should follow the paragraphing structure we’ve been discussing all year.

* Topic Sentence
* Detail
  + Explanation
  + Transition
* Repeat as needed

Good paragraphs have unity. That means that each sentence in the paragraph is related to the topic sentence. Unified paragraphs also discuss only ***one*** main idea.

1. **Conclusion Paragraphs**

The conclusion paragraph is the last paragraph in your essay. Its job is to emphasize your thesis statement and leave the reader with a feeling of satisfaction and completeness. It should not, under any circumstances, present any brand new information about your topic.

The conclusion paragraph is made up of its own three parts:

* **Connect to lead/hook**
* **Restate thesis**
* **Final thoughts**

1. **Connect to Lead/Hook:** Your first sentence(s) should refer back to the lead/hook you wrote in your introduction paragraph in some way. This ties the beginning and the end of your piece together. This gives your essay a “circular” feeling, as though you took the reader on a journey, and now they are back where they began.

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| **Lead** | **Connect to Lead** |
| If you were given the chance to live forever, would you take it? | Whether or not to take the chance to live forever would be a difficult decision to make. |
| When Neil Armstrong landed on the moon, the first words he said were, “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” | So like Neil Armstrong, take a giant leap! |
| There are over 150 different breeds of dogs | As you can see, each of the more than 150 breeds of dogs has its own special characteristics. |
| Zing! Whoosh! I spun around and stared into my backyard. What had made that peculiar sound? | Now that I knew what had made that peculiar sound, I was no longer frightened. |
| Dread lay on my stomach like a dead fish on the beach. | The dread was now gone. Everything had turned out all right. |

1. **Restate Thesis:** Your next sentence(s) should restate your thesis statement in a different way. You do not need to give any new information about your main ideas because you have already done that in your body paragraphs. In other words, keep it simple.

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| **Thesis Statement** | **Restate Thesis** |
| Three great things about owning a dog are that they are loyal, they are entertaining, and they keep you company. | As you can see, owning a dog is great because of how loyal they are, how much fun they are to play with, and how they can be your constant companion. |
| Three leaders of the American Revolutionary War were George Washington, Thomas Paine, and Paul Revere. | These three men, George Washington, Thomas Paine, and Paul Revere, all played a very important role in the American Revolutionary War. |
| Good readers often use thinking strategies such as making inferences, visualizing, and synthesizing. | Making inferences, visualizing the action of the story, and synthesizing new ideas are clearly important strategies for all readers to use. |

1. **Final Thoughts:** Your final sentence(s) should provide the reader with some closing, final thoughts on the topic that make your essay feel complete.

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| **Strategy** | **Meaning** | **Example** |
| 1. Look to the future | The writer ends by discussing something that might happen in the future, related to the topic of the essay | * If you wrote a piece about the leaders of the American Revolutionary War, you might say: “Thanks to these great leaders, America is the strong country it is today.” * If you wrote a piece about owning a dog, you might say, “In the future, perhaps every family will have one of these furry friends. |
| 1. Recommendation | The writer ends by recommending that the reader should do something. | * If you wrote a piece about recycling, you might say, “So next time there is trash on the ground, be sure to throw it away.” * If you wrote a piece about the desert you might say, “If taking a trip through the desert, be sure to pack lots of water!” |
| 1. End with an image | The writer ends by leaving a strong image in the reader’s mind. | * If you wrote a piece about the desert, you might say, “The sun is beating down, the air is hot and still, and all is quiet. This is life in the desert.” * If you wrote a piece about the leaders of the American Revolutionary War, you might say “Next 4th of July, as colorful fireworks light up the sky, be sure to take a moment and think of the great leaders who fought for our freedom.” |
| 1. One final question | The writer ends by leaving the reader with something to think about. | * If you wrote a piece about the leaders of the American Revolutionary War, you might ask, “Just think, what would our country be like today without these great leaders?” * If you wrote a piece about recycling, you might ask, “What is America doing to improve our planet?” |
| 1. Leave a feeling | The writer ends by leaving the reader with a certain feeling. | * If you wrote a piece about recycling, you might say, “Our planet needs help!” * If you wrote a piece about owning a dog, you might say, “Life is simply sweeter with these four-legged friends.” |