

Identifying the Most Significant Events and Elements of a Novel

A literary analysis should begin with a thesis that requires proof, takes a risk, and includes an answer to a “why” question. Write out a draft of a basic thesis claim (plus reasoning) in the space below or on the back of this sheet.

After you come up with your basic thesis, you need to decide where you will find your evidence and direct quotations. **While the best literary analyses offer interesting arguments and creative evidence/ analysis, they also serve to “capture” the essence of a novel (or poem or short story) by offering a comprehensive and thorough treatment of it.** You want to make sure that your evidence and quotes embrace the novel as a whole and represent it honestly, from your novel’s beginning to its middle to its end. Therefore, before you even start pulling quotes, create a list of significant events in your novel that you feel are ultimately necessary to address (even if briefly) in order to give your reader an interpretation of the novel that truthfully captures its full scope. List the six events/characters/scenes from both of your novels that you believe the argument above must address in order for your analysis to be thorough. Try to keep them chronological in order.

Novel #1:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Novel #2:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.