

Tips For Writing a Literary Map

Basic Requirements:

- Write 500-600 words
- Write as a response to the literary text and so do not include an introduction or conclusion as you might in a formal essay.
- Present double-spaced, and in MLA or APA format.

Expectations for Content:

- The goal is to identify and engage with the voice of protest or rebellion as it emerges in the text. Use the questions provided in the assignment description to help you think about the topic and to focus your search for the voice of protest in the work.
- Identify the specific issue, dispute, challenge or provocation that is articulated through the novel. What is the author angry about or protesting? What commentary about society is articulated through the text? And how would you characterize the voice expressing this commentary?
- Avoid summarizing the story or paraphrasing events in the text. Your goal is to identify in the content the detail of protest or social critique.

Template for Content:

Use this guide to structure your 500-600 word response or “literary map” to the novel’s voice of protest. Work progressively through these four areas – target, characterization of the target, voice of protest, and reader engagement:

- a) What do you identify as the core target for anger and protest in the work? What is the underlying critique? Who or what state of affairs is the target of the novel’s protest?
- b) How is this threat or problem represented in the novel? Use specific details to discuss how the target of protest or rebellion is presented.
- c) How does the voice of protest or rebellion provoke political and cultural action? Use specific details to explore how the text works to incite sentiments and even action.
- d) How is the reader engaged in the novel’s cause and calls for action and change?