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| **Critical Interpretation of *Night*****Assignment: Write a short essay that interprets the novel *Night* by Elie Wiesel using one of the critical approaches to literature.** | Comments |
| 1. Create a reading response journal for the fictional memoir including a creative cover. The journal entries should be ½ to 1 page per each chapter and can include pictures and information from research.
 | Chapter 1-9 100 pts |  |
| Critical Analysis of *Night*: |  |  |
| 1. The thesis introduces the work and sets up the contrast between two critical approaches the writer has chosen to interpret the novel. The writer has chosen two of the critical approaches: historical, sociological, psychological, philosophical, formalistic, biographical or symbolic.
 | A-25 ptsB-21 ptsC-18 ptsD-16 pts |  |
| 1. Three to four points of evidence from Night are used to support each critical approach. These selections may be directly quoted or paraphrased in summary. When text evidence is used, the page number are provided in parentheses.
 |  A-50 pts B-42 pts C-36 pts D-32 pts |  |
| 1. Include at least one fact, opinion or other memoir that supports the analysis. (Research for facts, theories, quotes from survivors, documents etc.)
 | A-25 ptsB-21 ptsC-18 ptsD-16 pts |  |
| 1. References are correctly paraphrased or quoted from the novel. Proper credit given to outside sources of information including MLA citation.
 | A-25 ptsB-21 ptsC-18 ptsD-16 pts |  |
| 1. Two page essay minimum—double-spaced, 12 pt. plain font. The essay should be written in Standard English, organized and edited to a good first draft. The essay should show evidence of forethought and planning for an in class writing.
 | A-25 ptsB-21 ptsC-18 ptsD-16 pts |  |

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cooper April 2011

 Updated April 2016

Comments and Suggestions

Critical Interpretation of *Night*

Assignment: Write a short essay that interprets the novel *Night* by Elie Wiesel using two of the critical approaches to literature.

1. Read and respond to the novel in a reading response journal.
2. Choose one of the approaches: historical, sociological, psychological, biographical, formalistic, philosophical or symbolic.
3. Choose four selections from *Night* to support each critical approach. These selections may be directly quoted or paraphrased in summary. If you use a quote, give the page number in parentheses.
4. At least one fact, opinion or other memoir that supports your analysis from an outside source.
5. Cite the outside source according to MLA requirements.
6. Two page essay minimum—double-spaced.

Possible essay starters:

In the novel Night by Elie Wiesel, the author uses his experiences as a fifteen year old boy to describe the atrocities of genocide. (or WWII concentration camps, the horrors of Auschwitz, the effect of scapegoating, etc.)

The relationship between father and son is important in all cultures. In Night by Elie Wiesel, the relationship between fifteen year old Elie and his fifty year old father (Scholmo Wiesel) is integral to the novel.

It seems impossible to comprehend the brutality faced by the Jewish people of German-occupied Europe during WWII. Night by Elie Wiesel offers the reader a brief but harsh first-hand account of one year in Auschwitz, one of the most notorious WWII concentration camps.

The critical symbols in Night by Elie Wiesel are fire and night. These two symbols are referred to during critical moments of action or realization told by a fifteen year old boy.

The events of 1944 to 1945 changed Elie Wiesel’s life. In his novel Night, he gives a first-person account of this pivotal year spent as a prisoner in WWII’s most horrible concentration camp.

The psychological effects of a year surviving brutality and degradation in a WWII concentration camp are sensitively depicted in the novel Night by Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel.

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| **"In the last analysis civilization itself is measured by the way in which children will live and what chance they will have in the world"** |
| **Mary Heaton Vorse** |
| **"Observing humans and observing oneself yields a clear-minded starting point for literature."** |
| **Gao XingjianChinese émigré novelist, playwright, and critic, 2000 Nobel Prize for Literature, b.1940** |
| **"The analysis of character is the highest human entertainment."** |
| **Isaac Bashevis SingerPolish-born American writer 1904-1991** |
| [**Books are the carriers of civilization. Without books, history is silent, literature dumb, science crippled, thought and speculation at a standstill. They are engines of change, windows on the world, lighthouses erected in the sea of time.**](http://thinkexist.com/quotation/books_are_the_carriers_of_civilization-without/12856.html)**”** |
| [**Barbara W. Tuchman**](http://thinkexist.com/quotes/barbara_w._tuchman/)  |