

# The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde: Literary Perspectives Essay

**Introduction to Literary Perspectives:** One way that literary scholars and critics examine a text is through research of one specific perspective or “lens.” After reading a text and conducting research on a particular aspect of the text, writers of this kind of essay explore the ways their research helps them understand the text more deeply.

**Purpose and Goals:** Examine The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde through one specific lens or perspective. Complete research on your selected lens, develop an arguable thesis about how this perspective helps you understand and interpret Robert Louis Stevenson’s novella, and write an essay that supports your ideas. Includes direct quotations from the text as well as evidence from your research to support your position.

Please examine the text based on one of the following perspectives:

## **Biographical Perspective:**

Research Robert Louis Stevenson’s life and experiences. Look at his childhood, his relationships, his interests, and his hobbies. Apply the facts and details that you find to the story in the text. How does your research help you to understand the story in greater depth?

OR

## **Historical Perspective:**

Research the time and place where the story is set. Feel free to research and explore very specific aspects of the time period (i.e. medicine, writing style, detective stories, experimentation, science, drug use, etc.) How do your findings help you understand Stevenson’s story?

OR

## **Psychological Perspective:**

Research the concept of the id, ego, and superego. Also research brain science and other psychological arenas as you wish. How does your research help you understand the text, the story, and the characters?

OR

## **Feminist Perspective:**

Research the roles of women in Victorian society. Examine the ways that women appear (or don’t appear) in the text. How were Victorian women perceived? Is their role in this story reflective of their role in society? What were the expectations and realities for women during this time period?

# **The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde: Literary Perspectives Essay**

## **Expected Length:**

At least five paragraphs, including an introduction, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Essay should be typed, double spaced, and in 12pt Font. A thoughtful title (and optional subtitle) should appear at the top of the first page.

## **Grading Expectations:**

Essays will be evaluated based on the presence of an arguable thesis, supporting evidence and quotations from the text and your research, and overall clarity and depth of thought. Each essay should have a thoughtful, interesting title and include discussion of at least three quotations from the text and clearly reference at least three outside sources. Please see a rubric at the end of this essay assignment for more details.

## **Plagiarism Reminder:**

As this assignment requires a significant amount of research, please be very cognizant of the plagiarism policy. Any phrases or sentences containing more than 3 words in a row that can be traced to a specific source must be quoted. Adherence to this policy is extremely important; essays with phrases, sentences, or ideas that have been copied from another source without citation will receive a zero.

## **Due Dates:**

Topic Choice and 3 outside sources:	<u>Wednesday, 11/30</u>	[5 points]
10 notecards [Research / source name]	<u>Thursday, 12/1</u>	[10 points]
Thesis Statement and Detailed Outline:	<u>Monday, 12/5</u>	[10 points]
Rough Draft:	<u>Wednesday, 12/7</u>	[15 points]
Final Draft:	<u>Tuesday, 12/13</u>	[100 points]

For this assignment, you will have in-class work-time through Wednesday, 12/7.  
All assignments are due by the end of the class period.

# ***The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde***

## **Literary Perspectives Essay: Sample Structure**

### **Working Title**

#### **I. Introduction**

Hook! Thoughtful / Memorable Opening Sentence, Quote, Description, Fact, Thought  
Introductory Thoughts, then transition to  
Arguable Thesis Statement

#### **II. Focus #1: \_\_\_\_\_.**

Topic Sentence:

1. Introduce Evidence / Example
  - a) Quote (with p #) plus discussion
2. Supporting Evidence from Research / Specific Example
  - a) Reference + Discussion
3. Concluding Sentence

#### **III. Focus #2: \_\_\_\_\_.**

Topic Sentence:

1. Introduce Evidence / Example
  - a) Quote (with p #) plus discussion
4. Supporting Evidence from Research / Specific Example
  - a) Reference + Discussion
5. Concluding Sentence

#### **IV. Focus #3: \_\_\_\_\_.**

Topic Sentence:

1. Introduce Evidence / Example
  - a) Quote (with p #) plus discussion
6. Supporting Evidence from Research / Specific Example
  - a) Reference + Discussion
7. Concluding Sentence

#### **V. Conclusion**

Topic Sentence:

1. Revisit Thesis
2. Restate Main Ideas
3. Explore Relevance / New Direction
4. Concluding Sentence

Don't Forget: Works Cited/Consulted Page {Make with easybib.com, Attach to draft}

# *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

## Literary Perspectives Essay: Sample Structure

## **Jekyll and Hyde: Final Essay Expectations and Grading:**

Your essay is evaluated based upon the strength of your examination of a specific literary perspective and resultant discussion, the examples you select and integrate into the discussion, and the clarity of your writing. The essay should include an introduction and conclusion, 3 well-developed body paragraphs (5-7 sentences minimum) and direct references and in-text quotations. The strongest essays provide research and analysis of one literary perspective and discussion of specific examples in the text.

	Secure	Developing	Beginning	Not Evident
Clear interpretation of <u>Jekyll and Hyde</u> through specific lens / perspective (thesis)				
Integration of 3 Quotations				
Analysis of Quotations				
Evidence of research beyond text				
Paragraph Structure & Clarity				
Grammatical Correctness				

Overall:	Secure	Developing	Beginning	Not Evident
Overall Score:	10 9	8 7	6 5 4	3 2 1 0

Overall Score X 10 =

**Secure** essays clearly identify a literary perspective and discuss main ideas with relevant and specific examples. Secure essays include quotations and explanation. Secure essays have a clear structure and each paragraph's topic sentence, quotations, and supporting evidence flow smoothly. Secure essays include paragraph breaks and transitional words between sections. Secure essays identify / analyze literary techniques.

**Developing** essays identify a literary perspective but may digress. Developing essays provide quotations and explanation, but some may not be relevant or explained thoroughly. Developing essays use quotations, but may not explain the quote. Developing essays include some structure and some transitional words, but may not consistently flow from one idea to another. Secure essays may identify literary techniques but may not analyze or discuss them accurately.

**Beginning** essays may identify a literary perspective but the discussion may be weak or difficult to support. Essays may include examples, but there is not a clear connection between the topic sentence, the examples, and the literary perspective. Beginning essays may use quotations, but not integrate them correctly. Beginning essays do not have a clear structure and use transitional words minimally or not at all. Beginning essays may identify literary techniques but do not analyze them.