Literary Essay

Definition: Literary essay is an essay discussing an important topic from the literary texts studied in Literature courses.

Format: Every literary essay should have the following parts:

1. Introduction:
2. Introductory sentence giving author(s), title(s) and brief summary of text(s).
3. Thesis Statement: your opinion about the topic you are discussing (what you will prove)
4. Body (this can be one paragraph or many paragraphs)
5. Main Idea/Topic Sentence
6. Example(s) from text
7. Explanation of how your example proves your thesis/main idea
8. Conclusion:
9. Restatement of thesis and main ideas
10. Closing sentence that leaves the reader with something to think about

Literary Essay: Slavery

Directions:

1. Complete each of the main idea paragraph with details that are relevant to the topic sentence.
2. Add your own conclusion.

**Introduction:**

The literary texts, “Glory Over Everything” and “All Aboard with Thomas Garret” and “Harriet Tubman: The Moses of Her People” each inform the reader about the important issue of slavery. **In the articles, the reader discovers that escaping from slavery was very dangerous for both the runaway slaves and the people who helped them.**

**Main Idea 1:**

**Escaping from slavery was very dangerous for the runaways.**

**Main Idea 2:**

**Helping runaway slaves required hard work and sacrifice from abolitionists, like Thomas Garret.**

**Main Idea 3:**

**It was only with courage and determination that slaves like Harriet Tubman were able to reach freedom.**

**Conclusion:**