

## **Kite Runner Argument Essay Assignment**

The characters in *The Kite Runner* are, to some extent, products of their environment. This assignment is an essay based on a debatable, appropriate argument, asserting that one major topic discussed, mentioned or assigned in class most affected one (or more) of the characters in *The Kite Runner*. While using appropriate sources to support your point, you will focus on the novel and argue that one aspect of the society: religion, economy, government, geography, family values, gender roles, education, health, warfare, politics, ethnicity, etc. most affected the characters and the outcome of the story. Please see the Group Project directions if you need more assistance finding topics or ideas related to the text. Your essay will be 3-5 page, typed, double-spaced paper, using 1" margins and 12 pt. Times New Roman font. **You need a Works Cited page, including *The Kite Runner* and a minimum of two outside sources for a passing grade on this essay. Your essay must be turned in to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). (You will also want to attach your rough draft with peer feedback and my comments if you want to get an A on this assignment.)**

**Audience:** Informed, academic; you may assume your audience has read *The Kite Runner*

### **Title**

- Should indicate position and issue
- Should neither be a complete sentence nor a question

### **Organization:**

- Introductory Paragraph (Paragraph 1):
- Provides an attention-getter (a quote or anecdote)
- Introduces clear and interesting topic
- Must include the name of the text and author
- Clearly states position: A clear, concise, and defined thesis statement
- Last sentence presents list of topics to be covered in essay (Plan of coherence or POC)
- Does not use "I" or "you"
- About 1/2 page long

### **Body Section (Paragraphs 2 to \_\_)**

- Develops argument through an appropriate balance of logical, character, and emotional appeals
- Includes relevant, sufficient evidence from the text and research (at least two citations per paragraph)
- Provides support for position and addresses opposing arguments
- Includes thorough explanations of significance of each example presented
- Includes topic and conclusion sentences
- Includes transitional phrases or clauses at the beginnings of paragraphs

### **Conclusion Paragraph**

- First sentence restates position
- Following sentences reiterate your points and answer the question: "How does what you've written prove how one major topic most influenced the characters and outcome of the *Kite Runner*?"
- Length: 1/2 - 3/4 of a page
- Includes a clincher that ties back into the attention-getter in the introductory paragraph

### **Evidence, Illustration, and Documentation**

- Introduce and cite all quoted material.
- Use mostly short quotations; do not use quotations longer than three lines of text in your own paper.
- Cite at least three written sources in your paper. In other words, you need to present examples that you have taken from at least three different sources. The more sources you use, the stronger your argument.
- Document each example taken from a written (typed) source regardless of whether paraphrased, summarized, or quoted. (Use author's last name and page number; don't use source numbers; in the case of no page number in an online source, type NP (for no page). "Document" means that after you present an example, you need to write the author's name and the page number of the source from which you took the example, and you need to put this information in parentheses.
- Works Cited Page (does not count as a "page" in 3-5 page requirement)
- Title the document "Works Cited" for the title of your paper by your name.
- Use MLA format

**Length:** 3-5 pages, typed, double-spaced, using 1" margins and Times New Roman, 12 point font

**Turnitin:** Your paper must be submitted to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) before it is handed in. Please include your originality report with the paper copy you hand in. Remember your originality report is a little hard to find. After you have submitted your paper online, you might need to wait some time, but a little colored square will show up, revealing what percent of your paper matches Internet sources. You must click on this button in order to see the originality report. You need only print and submit the first page, so that you and I both can see what percent of your sources match other sources. I can also see your word count. Please circle this count.

**I. Ways in which students demonstrate exemplary critical thinking skills in this essay include:**

- Identifying, categorizing, and restating in own words the key issue(s) or theme(s) raised in the novel.
- Analyzing, comparing, and evaluating the key issue(s) or theme(s) from the novel with information from other pertinent sources and contexts such as those listed below:
  - Personal (e.g., family dynamics; relationships with friends or family)
  - Educational (e.g., applies to information presented in classes from journal prompts, readings, discussions, and presentations)
  - Cultural/Social (e.g., local, national, international, ethnic or religious communities' behaviors, attitudes, ethics, and values; social class; gender relationships, and customs—sports, arts, etc.)
  - Political (e.g., governments' policies, ethics, and values; nationalism and patriotism)
- Identifying and analyzing differing points of view, relationships, inconsistencies, complexities, conflicts, or tensions regarding the issue(s) or theme(s) that are discussed or presented in other sources and different contexts.
- Questioning and assessing the validity, accuracy, assumptions, conclusions, possible bias, and ethical implications and dimensions of the information presented in the novel and raised in the essay.
- Connecting and applying information regarding the issue(s) or theme(s) from the novel as well as other sources and contexts to one's own new, insightful claim, or position about the issue(s) or theme(s).
- Avoiding bias and faulty reasoning—such as asserting an opinion as fact or making a faulty cause-effect association.

**II. Ways in which students demonstrate exemplary critical writing skills include the following:**

- Defending their own thesis and assertions with relevant evidence from a variety of other sources and/or experiences.
- Connecting and smoothly integrating or assimilating information, relying mainly on own words or rephrasing, from other sources to support thesis and assertions and limiting quotations to appropriate examples.
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- Making the purpose and focus clear to the audience through a stated thesis and through logical organization of ideas and development of the content.
- Employing appropriate overall tone and specific word choice, defining specialty terms (as they are used in the novel and primary sources) for the audience where necessary.
- Crafting clear, well-structured, coherent sentences and paragraphs.
- Incorporating effective transitions so that writing flows smoothly from one idea to another.
- Providing complete documentation for all sources cited.
- Using proper conventions of MLA style in citing and documenting all information, whether rephrased or quoted, from sources.
- Proofreading essay carefully to eliminate errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation according to the conventions of Standard American English.