

## Revolutionary Voices Interpretive Essay

**Assignment:** Write an interpretive essay using the ideas and events of the Revolutionary Voices we've studied as the basis for the paper. You will create your own argument/thesis statement for your essay.

Some questions to help you get started:

1. What can we learn from studying these four revolutionary voices?
2. What makes a revolutionary leader and how can we be one?
3. How do dramas and documentaries help us learn more or less about real events?
4. Compare and contrast these voices to make an argument.

You can answer these questions or pose your own idea, but your thesis should be an **argument**, *not an opinion*.

You must keep in mind that every essay must have the following elements in order for it to be effective:

**Introduction** – The introduction should

- Capture the reader's interest by using an intriguing attention grabber.
- Present the ideas that will be explored in the essay.
- Include the title and director of the films.
- State the thesis, which should be the final sentence of the introduction.

**Body** – Each body paragraph of the interpretive essay should:

- Begin with a topic sentence which states a ***reason to support the thesis***.
- Integrate at least TWO concrete details explained in your own words to support the thesis statement
- Offer commentary that analyzes the concrete details by explaining how they support the thesis statement.
- Finish with a concluding statement that wraps up the interpretation of the paragraph.

**Conclusion** – The conclusion should

- Review the main points of the essay and offer any additional insight on the topic.
- Connect the topic to the real world, universalizing the ideas and reaching some new insight.

**Due Dates:**

Thesis statement: \_\_\_\_\_

Essay organizer: \_\_\_\_\_

Rough draft (typed)/Peer Editing: \_\_\_\_\_

Full (typed) rough draft: \_\_\_\_\_

**Things to remember:**

- √ Avoid "dead" words.
- √ Write the essay in the present tense.
- √ Eliminate the words "I," "me," "my," "you"
- √ *Italicize* the title of the film.
- √ Use proper MLA format

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**INTERPRETIVE ESSAY: Score Sheet**  
**Revolutionary Voices**

**QUALITY OF WRITING:**

**1. Introductory paragraph:**

- Captures reader’s attention by using a powerful attention grabber 1 2 3 4 5 6
- Does a good job of setting up the rest of the paper as a whole 1 2 3 4 5 6
- Thesis statement makes a powerful assertion about the novel. 1 2 3 4 5 6
- Includes title (italics or underlined) and author name. YES NO

**2. Body paragraphs:**

- Topic sentences name a reason to support the thesis. 1 2 3 4 5 6
- Integrates at least two well-selected concrete details in each paragraph. 1 2 3 4 5 6
- Each concrete detail is thoroughly explained with specific details. 1 2 3 4 5 6
- The writer introduces each quote with sufficient background information. 1 2 3 4 5 6
- Uses well-selected quotes to support the essay. 1 2 3 4 5 6
- Supports each concrete detail with well-developed commentary. 1 2 3 4 5 6
- Convinces reader that interpretation is reasonable and accurate. 1 2 3 4 5 6
- Wraps up the interpretation at the end of the paragraphs. 1 2 3 4 5 6
- Essay is organized and easy to follow. 1 2 3 4 5 6
- All interpretation and passages directly support the thesis. 1 2 3 4 5 6

**3. Conclusion:**

- Summarizes the main points of the essay. 1 2 3 4 5 6
- Reaches a new insight (answers the questions “so what?”). 1 2 3 4 5 6

**4. Style & Mechanics**

- Eliminates spelling/wrong word errors. Evidence of spell check/revision 1 2 3 4 5 6
- Uses present tense throughout the essay 1 2 3 4 5 6
- Eliminates “dead” words, use of personal pronouns (“I,” “me,” “you”) 1 2 3 4 5 6
- The essay uses proper MLA format YES NO
- Quotations/Passages are cited correctly. YES NO

**Suggestions for improvement:**

Essay score: \_\_\_\_\_/80  
Essay Organizer: \_\_\_\_/10  
Rough Draft/Peer Edit: \_\_\_\_/10  
OVERALL SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_/100