

The Written Assignment

Part 1: Works in Translation

**English 4 IB HL
Mr. Nigro**

Before you write

- ☐ choose one of the three works we have studied
- ☐ review your supervised writing for possible ideas
- ☐ think about an "aspect" of the work to focus on:
 - ☐ literary in focus
 - ☐ very specific
 - ☐ clearly expressed
 - ☐ sophisticated
 - ☐ shows independent learning by the student
 - ☐ of real interest to the student
- ☐ summarize your aspect in a two-part title (statement: exposition)
- ☐ draft an outline

Examples

- ❑ you are a student in India writing about The Great Gatsby
- ❑ areas that interest you are materialism, culture, social class, etc.
- ❑ what "aspect" should you focus on?
 - ❑ "Her Voice was Full of Money": Daisy's Diction in TGG
 - ❑ "Being Rich Together": Exclusivity and Excess in TGG
 - ❑ Valley of Ashes: The Symbols of Moral Decay in TGG
 - ❑ The Eyes Have It: Vision in TGG
 - ❑ Man and Machine: Personal Power in TGG
 - ❑ The Good Gatsby?: The Irony of Desire in TGG
 - ❑ You Booze, You Lose: TGG as Social Commentary
- ❑ So yeah some of these titles are terrible but you get the idea—isolate an aspect, then move toward larger conclusions

Format

- ❑ typed & double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt., 1" margins
- ❑ follow MLA guidelines for parenthetical references
- ❑ staple the draft
- ❑ quotations are included in your word count but bibliography and footnotes are not
- ❑ Include a Works Cited page
- ❑ have a header on every page with your name and page number
- ❑ approach the upper end of the word limit but do not exceed it
- ❑ give the word count at the end
- ❑ Revise and re-format your Reflective Statement (as necessary) and attach; when your final copy is done, print and turn in for the file (we will upload it for the IB via managebac but I keep a copy.)

Writing Basics

- ❑ write the title at the top of the first page
- ❑ use *italics* to indicate the title of the subject work
- ❑ use the author's full name or surname (not "Franz")
- ❑ write about literature in the present tense
- ❑ use formal, precise language; aim to say clever things simply
- ❑ refer to the rubric before, during, and after you write your essay

The Introduction

- ☐ one concise paragraph
- ☐ show that you understand the title of your essay
- ☐ focus on the specific text or extract you are writing about
- ☐ set out a clear argument

The Main Body of the Essay

Evidence can
be a quotation



- ❑ structure your paragraphs properly (PEA--point/evidence/analysis)
- ❑ always consider how the author is shaping meaning
- ❑ refer to literary techniques but always give examples and analyze their effects
- ❑ return to the main "thread" of your argument often
- ❑ show awareness of different possible interpretations

General Advice

- ❑ your topic should be clearly literary in its focus
- ❑ avoid questions on larger themes or primary character analysis
- ❑ don't waste words summarizing plot
- ❑ be as specific as possible (avoid general or vague statements)
- ❑ let the aspect lead your essay, not knowledge of the whole text
- ❑ be aware of how context shapes the aspect
- ❑ write a fresh, memorable conclusion that does not merely summarize your essay
- ❑ make sure your quotations are clearly supportive of your points and carefully shaped to the flow of your argument
- ❑ again--remember the rubric: knowledge / author's choices / organization / language
- ❑ proofread!

Questions?

The Written Assignment

Part 1: Works in Translation

English 4 IB HL
Mr. Nigro