

Mr. Francis
European Literature

Modified Critical Lens

Write a critical essay in which you discuss Leo Tolstoy's Anna Karenina (1877) from the particular perspective of the statement that is provided for you in the Critical Lens. In your essay, prove a valid interpretation of the statement; support, refute, or qualify the statement as you have interpreted it; and defend your opinion using specific references to at least three significant characters from the novel. You should have two pieces of quoted text and at least two concrete examples for each character. Plan your response.

Critical Lens: (choose one)

- "If goodness has causes, it is no longer goodness; if it has consequences, a reward, it is not goodness, either." (Levin)
- "I believe that every man with a certain degree of education ought to be interested in the common good." (Koznyshev)
- "I believe the chief motive of all our actions to be, when all is said and done, our personal happiness." (Levin)
- "No one is satisfied with his fortune, but everyone is satisfied with his intelligence." (diplomat quoting a French saying)
- "But that's the whole aim of civilization: to make everything a source of enjoyment." (Oblonsky)
- "What has reason been given to man for if not to help him to escape from his troubles." (a woman on a train)

Guidelines:

Be sure to

- Provide a valid interpretation of the critical lens that clearly establishes the criteria for analysis
- Indicate whether you agree or disagree with the statement as you have interpreted it
- Use the criteria suggested by the critical lens to analyze each text
- Eschew plot summary. Instead, use specific references to appropriate literary elements (for example: theme, characterization, setting, point of view) to develop your analysis
- Organize your ideas in a unified and coherent manner
- Specify the title and author of the literature
- Follow the conventions of standard written English

Please use standard MLA format. The essay must be double-spaced, with one-inch margins all around. Please use a 12-point, Times New Roman font. All papers must have an appropriate and creative title. Length guideline: 2-3 pages. No coversheets.

You will be expected to submit a one-page proposal. You must complete a full rough draft to be peer edited in class. The proposal and your peer-edited rough draft should be submitted with your final drafts.