

ANIMAL FARM

Writing Assignment

ASSIGNMENT

In *ANIMAL FARM*, Orwell shows how both the leaders and the followers in a society can act in ways that destroy freedom and equality. Choose one leader and one follower from the novel and explain how the behavior of each contributes to the loss of freedom and equality on Animal Farm.

PREWRITING

Step 1

List the various leaders of Animal Farm. Looking back through the novel, find several examples of actions the leaders take that curtail the rights of the animals. Then decide which leader you want to focus on in your paper and answer the following questions about that leader.

- A. What specific actions does the leader take that destroy freedom and weaken equality on Animal Farm? List at least five examples from the novel.
- B. How would you judge or characterize the behavior of the leader? For example, is it selfish? Fearful? Grandiose? Manipulative?
- C. How does that leader gain and keep his power?
- D. What does the goal or the aim of the leader seem to be? Does he achieve it?

Step 2

The followers of Animal Farm want freedom and equality, but the leaders do not. However, the followers often act and think in ways that make it easy for the leaders to take advantage of them. List several followers from the story whose behavior Orwell satirizes. Then choose the character you would like to focus on in your paper and answer the following questions.

- A. How does the character act in specific situations to weaken equality and give up his or her freedom? List at least three examples.
- B. Does the character realize that the animals are losing their freedom and equality? Why or why not?
- C. Does the character influence the attitudes and behaviors of other followers on Animal Farm? If so, how? If not, why not?
- D. Is the behavior of the character typical of that of most other followers on Animal Farm? Can you identify a type of behavior that puts the ideals of freedom and equality in danger?

Step 3

In addition to your introductory and concluding paragraphs, plan two paragraphs for the body of your essay, one for each character you have chosen to analyze. Each paragraph should first explain the behavior of the character, giving examples from the story. Then each should explain how the behavior contributes to the loss of freedom and equality on Animal Farm.

Decide on the order in which you want to discuss the two characters. You may want to emphasize the behavior that you think contributes most to the loss of freedom and equality. The final point that is discussed in a paper usually receives the most emphasis, but you can make either order work by using clear topic sentences and clear transitions between the two body paragraphs. Also think about the relationship between the two characters. If the behavior of the follower is a response to the behavior of the leader, for example, you may need to discuss the behavior of the leader first.

Step 4

Write a thesis statement for your paper that names the two characters you plan to discuss, emphasizes a type of behavior, and states the consequences of their behavior. What conclusion can you draw about your characters after examining the evidence from the novel? Be sure your thesis statement names the characters in the order they will be discussed in your paper.

WRITING

1. In your introductory paragraph, give enough background information about the plot to make your paper clear to someone who has not read the novel. Also tell what your paper will be about. If you wish, you can make a statement about Orwell's use of satire in the novel or you may mention the moral or the lesson to be learned. Be sure to include the title and author. You might end your introduction with a statement of your thesis.
2. Give each body paragraph a topic sentence that names the character and tells what the paragraph will show about the character's behavior. The topic sentence of the second body paragraph should include a clear transition. For example, you might use a word such as because, although, or however. As you write, make your points clearly and directly. Then support them with evidence from the novel. Use examples from your notes for Prewriting Steps 1 and 2. Use a concluding sentence for each body paragraph.
3. In your concluding paragraph, reinforce the main idea of your paper. If you referred to Orwell's use of satire in your introduction, you might mention satire again in your conclusion. You might also tell what warning you think Orwell is giving readers or what you have learned about human behavior from the novel.
4. Write your essay in present tense. Example – Orwell shows..., Boxer works...
Type double-spaced on one side of the paper.
Do not use I or YOU or forms of those words.
Do not refer to the essay. Example - "In this essay..." "In this paragraph..."
Use at least one quote in your paper.
5. Record the Due Date for each stage of your essay below.
Prewrite 75 points –
First Draft 75 points –
Peer Evaluation 50 points –
Final Draft Packet 100 points –

Rubric Checklist

ANIMAL FARM Essay

INTRO – 10 points

- _____ Thesis Statement
 - names characters
 - emphasizes types of behavior
 - states consequences of behavior
- _____ Plot Summary
- _____ Title, Author

BODY – 30 points

- _____ Topic Sentence
 - names character
 - describes behavior
- _____ Specific examples of behavior
 - behavior related to loss of freedom
- _____ Answers questions A-D
- _____ Concluding Sentence

BODY – 30 points

- _____ Begins with a transition
- _____ Topic Sentence
 - names character
 - describes behavior
- _____ Specific examples of behavior
 - behavior related to loss of freedom
- _____ Answers questions A-D
- _____ Concluding Sentence

CONCLUSION – 10 points

- _____ Echoes main idea stated in thesis
- _____ Summarizes

MECHANICS – 20 points

- _____ Double spaced
- _____ No use of I or YOU
- _____ No reference to essay
- _____ Proofread
- _____ Spelling, fragments, run-ons

Final Score: