

Frequently, the way literature displays something, or how it appears, clashes with what is really the case. This theme about appearances vs. reality emerges in Harper Lee's To Kill A Mockingbird, Peter Lubar's Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie, Mitch Albom's The Five People You Meet in Heaven, and Jerry Spinelli's Stargirl. Explore this theme in your two selected summer reading novels. Refer to specific evidence and use direct quotations from both texts to develop your essay about the contrast of appearances and reality.

**DO NOT WRITE THIS ESSAY OVER THE SUMMER.
WE WILL WRITE IT IN SCHOOL AFTER ESSAY WRITING INSTRUCTION.**

Introduction

- Broad, general statement about the essay topic
- Introduce authors, titles, genres
- Thesis Statement: Identify the two examples where appearances contrast with reality

Body Paragraph

- Topic Sentence (state the main idea of the paragraph)
- Discuss the way something or someone appears in the first novel, using relevant quotations from the novel to support your ideas.
- Use a transition.
- Discuss the reality of that misconception as portrayed in the first novel, using relevant quotations from the novel to support your ideas.
- Close paragraph with a summarizing sentence.

Body Paragraph

- Use a transition.
- Topic Sentence (state the main idea of the paragraph)
- Discuss the way something or someone appears in the second novel, using relevant quotations from the novel to support your ideas.
- Use a transition.
- Discuss the reality of that misconception as portrayed in the second novel, using relevant quotations from the novel to support your ideas.
- Close paragraph with a summarizing sentence.

Conclusion

- Restate thesis (Do not copy it word for word from the introductory paragraph)
- Restate major ideas developed in the essay
- Add a summarizing, clincher sentence (make a comment about this theme and the real world)

Miscellaneous Writing Suggestions:

- ☆ **DO NOT USE subjective 1st & 2nd person personal pronouns** (“I,” “me,” “my,” “mine,” “you,” “your,” “yours,” “we,” “us,” “our,” and “ours.”)
- ◆ Use present tense verbs consistently throughout the essay
- ◆ Avoid informal or imprecise language such as “a lot,” “big,” “nice,” “guy,” “good,” etc.
- ◆ When using a thesaurus, be sure to check the precise meaning of words in a dictionary
- ◆ Avoid contractions such as “don’t,” “it’s,” “they’re,” etc.
- ◆ Use transitional phrases such as “In addition,” “Furthermore,” “Moreover,” “However,” “Also,” “Overall,” “Likewise,” “Similarly,” “In contrast,” and “Conversely.”
- ◆ Integrate quotes with your own words (Instead of writing, “A quote that shows courage is ‘...’,” write “The character displays courage as she ‘...’.”)
- ◆ Avoid passive voice (Instead of writing “The character is portrayed as a...,” write “The novel portrays the character as a...”)