

## Universal Truths in “The Lottery”

### **Project Summary**

“The Lottery” was a chilling story that touched on many universal truths/themes that are present in history as well as modern day. This assignment will begin in thoughtful discussions created in small groups and finalized in Socratic circles. You will be able to clearly identify Jackson’s messages and visualize how each message can be tied into our lives. You will select a theme and thoroughly analyze how that theme applied not only to Jackson’s “The Lottery,” but also how it applies to historical and modern times. You must think outside of the box. Search for connections and elaborate on your thoughts. After brainstorming and organizing information you will compose a thoughtful expository essay showing your knowledge and writing abilities. Below is a list of possible themes for this essay:

1. People often designate scapegoats to take the blame for others.
2. People are reluctant to reject outdated traditions, ideas, rules, laws and practices.
3. The unexamined life is not worth living.
4. Following the crowd can have disastrous consequences.
5. The wickedness of the common man is just as horrific as the evil found in hardened criminals.

### **Writer’s Purpose**

This assignment requires formal/analytical writing. Your goal is to gather enough information to become an expert on how your chosen theme relates to the world around you. You will need to supply specific and detailed examples to make your point. I want to know why Jackson’s themes are so important and why they will remain important.

### **Writer’s Role**

After compiling information on your chosen theme through class discussions and some research, you will write an analytical essay explaining how Jackson’s theme is relevant in her story, in history, and present day. You are trying to convince me that the theme you chose is relevant and powerful in the world.

### **Audience**

You are writing to me to show that you have put in much thought and analysis and are able to see the value of Jackson’s theme in your life and the lives of others.

### **Form**

This will be a MLA formatted five-paragraph essay.

**Focus Correction  
Areas**

- 1. Connections and insight are evident \_\_\_\_\_ Points
- 2. Strong Introduction \_\_\_\_\_ Points
- 3. Supporting details \_\_\_\_\_ Points
- 4. MLA format \_\_\_\_\_ Points

**Procedure**

Before writing your essay you will complete several

activities.

- Take notes during class discussions and organize information.
- Choose a theme and develop a thesis statement.
- Type I — Complete a graphic organizer for essay.
- Type III— Write an introduction following the essay guidelines. Be sure to have a catchy opener, the title and author, and a clear thesis.
- Type IV— Revise introduction.
- Type III — Write your body paragraphs. Be sure to use transitions and strong supporting details.
- Type IV— Revise body paragraphs.
- Type III — Write conclusion paragraph. Be sure to begin with a transition, tie something in from the introduction, and close with something that provokes thought.
- Type IV— Revise conclusion.
- Read paper out loud in a one foot voice. Make any corrections necessary. **Decide on a title that symbolizes the theme.**
- Type V— Your best possible piece. Make all revisions and check your paper to make sure you met the FCA's. This must be typed  
**Due Date: Sept. 17, 2010**

**This assignment sheet must be signed by a parent/guardian and returned by the student.**

I have read the assignment sheet and understand the objectives.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date