

Adv. English 2

Class Recap

10/19/2025



Morality, Ethics, and Literary Analysis Essay Structure

- We deepened our understanding of Poe's masterpiece, moving beyond simple plot summary to focus on the story's moral and ethical lessons. We also began preparing for our major two-week project: the Literary Analysis Essay.

Concept	Deeper Meaning in "Masque"
Futility	The pointlessness of Prospero's attempt to use wealth and isolation to cheat death.
Morality/Ethics	The critique of Prospero's selfishness in abandoning the poor and focusing only on his own pleasure while others suffered.
Symbolism	How the setting (seven rooms) and objects (clock, masks) are used as tools to relentlessly remind the reader of time and inevitable death.
Literary Analysis	The skill of forming a clear, debatable argument (Thesis) about the text and supporting it with specific Text Evidence .

Review: Poe's Tools for Theme

- Remember how Poe used the setting and symbols to develop the theme that Mortality is Inescapable:

Literary Element	Symbolic Meaning	How it Proves the Theme
The Seven Rooms	The stages of life, moving East to West.	Represents life's short, irreversible journey toward the final, black room (death).
The Ebony Clock	Time, and the inevitability of change.	It forces the party to pause and acknowledge that their time is running out, proving that wealth cannot stop the clock.
Prospero's Actions	Aristocratic Selfishness and Arrogance.	His attempt to lock out death and ignore his duty leads to his swift punishment when the Red Death appears in his private haven.

- Homework: Thesis Drafting & Outline (Due Next Class)**

Step 1: Brainstorm Essay Topics & Ideas | Circle the one topic and the one main thematic idea you want to focus on for your essay:

Element Focus (What?)	Thematic Idea (Why?)
The Setting (Abbey, Rooms, Time)	Mortality is Inescapable: Analyzing the rooms as a literal countdown to death.
Symbolism (Clock, Red Death, Masks)	Futility of Wealth/Power: Arguing that Prospero's arrogance is punished by the arrival of the Red Death.
Character/Ethics (Prospero's Actions)	Critique of Selfishness: Analyzing the moral failure of the wealthy to protect the poor.

Step 2: Draft Your Thesis Statement | Using your circled focus areas, draft one strong, argumentative thesis statement for your essay.

Step 3: Outline Your Body Paragraphs | Based on your thesis, briefly list the three main arguments (points of evidence) you will use in your body paragraphs.

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