

# *The Count of Monte Cristo*

## Theme Essay

Prompt: Write a literary analysis essay based on a theme from *The Count of Monte Cristo*. The purpose of this analysis is to address the underlying message you believe Alexandre Dumas desires to communicate about your chosen theme. Be careful! This is a **literary analysis** essay, not a plot summary. You are not simply trying to prove that your chosen theme exists in the book. Rather, you should seek to uncover the deeper significance of your chosen theme, as revealed through the characters and plot.

Choose one of the following themes:

- **Love/Hate**- What does Dumas believe about love and/or hate? Do we see demonstrations of love in his characters? Do we see examples of biblical love? Which of the two prevail in Dantes' world? (Your essay could focus on one or both of these themes.)
- **Justice/Revenge**- Is there such a thing as justice in the Count's world? Is his revenge justified? Is he a just man? Is he treated with justice? What does this reveal about Dumas' worldview? (Your essay could focus on one or both of these themes)
- **Friendship (Loyalty)**- According to Dumas, what is loyalty? Do the characters in his story share the same views about fidelity? How is loyalty portrayed in their actions? How is disloyalty portrayed?
- **God/Providence**- What does Dumas' writing reveal about his belief in God? Does he believe in providence? How do the actions of his characters reveal his beliefs?

### STEP 1- CHOOSE YOUR THEME & BRAINSTORM

Use the questions listed next to your chosen theme to think about the underlying message Dumas may be communicating to his reader about this theme.

### STEP 2- FORM A THESIS STATEMENT

Remember, your thesis statement must clearly present your chosen theme, address the deeper message communicated about the theme, and be arguable (someone could disagree). Remember, no more 3-pronged thesis statements!

### STEP 3- PROVE IT!

Select quotes from the story that strongly prove your thesis. Each body paragraph must contain two separate proofs (context, blended quote, commentary) with transition wording between. Your quotes must show variety (spread throughout the book).

### STEP 4- CREATE A BODY PARAGRAPH OUTLINE

Use the attached template to create your outline. Follow the instructions carefully!

### STEP 5- WRITE YOUR ESSAY

Length Requirement: 5 paragraphs, 2 full pages  
See grading rubric for specific essay requirements  
A PARENT MUST PROOFREAD YOUR ESSAY!

**Due Dates:**

Tuesday, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>: Thesis emailed to tutor by 3pm

Monday, Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, Body paragraph outline due

Monday, Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, Rough Draft due

Monday, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, Final Draft due 2/19 (Submit to Tii by class time and bring paper copy to class)

**Body Paragraph Outline Expectations:** (see next page for outline template)

- Must follow proper MLA outline format
- Thesis statement must be written out and underlined at the top of your outline.
- Body paragraph topic sentences must be written out as complete sentences.
- Assertions (contextual info) may be written in note form
- Proofs (quotes) must be written in their entirety OR blended and properly cited
- Commentary (explanation) may be written in note form.
- Transition wording between evidences must be present

**Rough Draft Expectations:**

- Must follow proper MLA format
- Must meet minimum page requirement (2 full pages, 5 paragraphs)
- Must contain all structural elements
- Should show evidence of proofreading
- Note: You will not receive tutor feedback on this rough draft!

**Final Draft Expectations:**

- Refer to grading rubric for all required elements. (Use this as you proofread!)
- Must be submitted to Turnitin on time.
- Must be proofread by a parent. Signed rubric due in class on final due date.

## Count Theme Essay Body Paragraph Outline Template

Thesis Statement: (Type out your tutor-approved thesis statement here)

- I. Body Paragraph 1 Topic sentence: (complete sentence)
  - A. 1<sup>st</sup> Assertion (Example 1 context, note form ok)
    1. 1<sup>st</sup> quote with citation (written out or blended)
    2. Commentary/Explanation (How does this example relate to your thesis?)
    3. Transition word or phrase
  - B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Assertion (Example 2 context, note form ok)
    1. 2<sup>nd</sup> quote with citation (written out or blended)
    2. Commentary/Explanation (How does this example relate to your thesis?)
  - C. Clincher (must reflect topic sentence, note form ok)

Transition  
Words

Moreover  
Furthermore  
Additionally  
Also  
Next  
Likewise  
Similarly  
In addition

(Follow this template for body paragraphs 2 and 3)